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Cuba

Castro, Reporters Discuss Elections, Results

FL0303182193

[Editorial Report] Havana Radio and Television Networks in Spanish at 0232 GMT on 2 March carries live a roundtable discussion between Cuban President Fidel Castro and correspondents Hector Rodriguez, Rosalia Arnaez, and Pedro Martinez Pirez.

Arnaez initiates the interview by reminding Castro of important historical events such as that of 1 January, the October Crisis, and the 33d anniversary of the slogan "Fatherland or Death" on 4 March. Castro responds: "It seems to me that 24 February is a compendium of all those events and all those things we have fought for throughout these years." He goes on to recount the adversities of earlier freedom fighters, such as Maximo Gomez and Jose Marti.

Rodriguez asks Castro for his opinion of whether the elections were a plebiscite. Castro replies: "Although, these elections were never called a plebiscite, the 24 February elections became a plebiscite because they were a battle and an encounter of concepts, ideas, and policies. They were a battle between the Cuban people and imperialism; between the present, the future, and the past; and between socialism and capitalism. They were a great battle, above all, against imperialism in defense of the nation, the Revolution, and socialism." He says that the most outstanding thing about the elections is that they were held during the special period with all its accompanying difficulties. He adds that everyone wanted the opportunity to vote.

Castro notes that one of the impressive points of the elections was the percentage of voter participation, 98.62 percent. He asserts that the idea of fraud is so foreign that it did not even cross anyone's mind. He touches on the enemy's efforts to get people to nullify their ballots, noting that 92.97 percent of the votes were valid—not all of the invalid ballots were nullified intentionally—and 95.17 percent were for the united vote. He emphasizes that the united vote was not a slogan but an act of political awareness.

They discuss the need for a strategy to convince people to vote for all the candidates because only 20 percent of the candidates were nationally known, making it difficult for the lesser-known candidates to obtain the requisite number of votes. Castro stresses the importance of the work of the candidacy commissions and their efforts to get the people to nominate and elect the candidates. He repeatedly cites efforts to avoid competition among the candidates, and the search for solutions to this problem.

Castro recounts the history of the decision to adopt the secret, direct vote and emphasizes that it was an initiative of the Communist Party of Cuba, PCC. He refers to the problem of cities having more qualified people than municipalities, and of moving them to the municipalities that need them in the pursuit of quality assemblies. He says that based on the experience of these elections, many things have been seen that can be done differently in future elections, specifically allowing the candidates more time to talk with the people.

Martinez mentions that the enemy's campaign focused on the fact that a great majority of the deputies are communists. Castro says: "And they are right. It is a great honor, because with the procedures we use, for the people of this country to nominate... [pauses] Let us say, the fact that the great majority of the candidates elected are PCC members speaks very highly of PCC members, and of their prestige. They were nominated not because they are PCC members, but for their countless merits."

Castro comments on the importance of the presence of foreign reporters during the elections, adding that they were allowed to go wherever and talk with whomever they wanted, even allowed to watch the ballots being counted. Castro explains that the final election results should be published by next week. He again mentions his tour of Santiago de Cuba Province, summarizing the sequence of events, impressions.

Castro says: "We must think, when we make our assessment of all these experiences and efforts for greater activity of the National Assembly of the People's Government, ANPP—which everyone would like—about the possible need to professionalize some of the delegates." He adds that in considering how often to hold elections, he favors general elections every five years with systematic elections whenever there is a need; noting that 500,000 people participated in the organization and preparation of these elections. Castro announces that the provincial assemblies will meet on 7 March and the ANPP on 15 March.

When asked what would happen if the electoral process had to be repeated, Castro says many things were learned in the process. He says nothing was left undone that could have been done, reiterating that there needs to be more time for contact with the people.

Castro congratulates a list of organizations who participated in the elections, specifically: the candidacy and electoral commissions; graphic designers; computer specialists and communication workers; members of mass organizations such as the Cuban Workers Federation, the Federation of Secondary School Students, Federation of University Students, Committees for the Defense of the Revolution, Pioneers; and the PCC.

In conclusion, Castro reiterates that more than 90 percent of the valid votes were united in all the provinces and that the candidates received an average of 96.91 percent of the valid votes. He stresses that the greatest challenge was to hold these general elections in the midst of the special period, stating: "It could not be just a simple victory, but an energetic victory, a forceful victory, a message to the enemy as to who we are, the kind of people we are, and our decision. It was a plebiscite for

socialism in the midst of the special period and the disappearance of the socialist bloc. A plebiscite for socialism in the midst of the special period, [repeats] when the embargo is stronger than ever, when the difficulties are greater, and when the socialist bloc and the Soviet Union have disappeared. One day they will have to make a statue of our people."

The two-hour, 51-minute program ended with Castro thanking the reporters for the opportunity to be on the program.

Havana Notes U.S 'Double Standards' on Human Rights

FL0403203793 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] In Geneva, Switzerland, Cuba challenged the United States' double standards on the subject of human rights, which violates the rights of the Cuban people because of its selective nature. Reporter Yosi Jimenez reports on the position defended by Cuba at the 49th annual session of the UN Human Rights Commission.

[Jimenez] The Cuban delegation made seven clear statements last night to explain how the United States' side manipulates the diplomatic exercise of human rights by putting emphasis on certain matters and intentionally ignoring others as part of their traditional 30-year-old policy of harassment and threats against Cuba. In her statements, Juana Silvera Nunez, diplomat in the Cuban Foreign Ministry, indicated that the embargo policy and the Torricelli Law are tangible expressions of political pressures that have been shifted to the economic and trade areas.

In her reply to the U.S. ambassador to the UN international organizations, accredited in Geneva, the Cuban diplomat said that he would not even mention ending the U.S policy of stimulating the illegal departures from Cuba by giving corresponding visas to those that requested them with the purpose of creating internal unrest and subversion in Cuba.

Juana Silvera pointed out that it was paradoxical that those who violate Cuban laws are welcomed as heroes in the United States. Meanwhile, these same authorities assume a completely contradictory position with regard to Haitians, who emigrate to the United States and who, most of the times, arrive in Cuba by accident or because of weather conditions.

Havana Notes Alarcon Interview on U.S. Policies

FL0403023893 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] In an interview published today by the Mexican newspaper LA JORNADA, Cuban Foreign Minister Ricardo Alarcon opined that the current U.S. Government has received a heavy and burdensome inheritance with respect to Cuba and that we are in a waiting period. Alarcon clearly stated: So far I have not seen elements that can be attributed to the new U.S. Government in its policies toward Cuba. They are simply following a policy from the previous government. On the international situation, Alarcon estimated that the New Order, based on the hegemony of some powers, has not developed and he emphasized that it will not be easy to establish.

Lazo Presides Over Meeting in Santiago de Cuba

FL0403031293 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] At a meeting presided over by Esteban Lazo Hernandez, a member of the Politburo and the first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] in Santiago de Cuba Province, it was announced that among the tasks that have been declared priorities by the PCC leadership and the government in Santiago de Cuba Province are giving new impetus to the current sugar harvest, the food program, and the construction of low-cost housing. The province's different (?sectors) will join efforts and resources in support of better care for the work force and with a view to improving the living conditions of the different teams working in the sugar harvest.

During the meeting, which was held at the headquarters of the province's people's government, Esteban Lazo said that action aimed at increasing the mills' efficiency in grinding will be given new impetus as of today.

For his part, Reynaldo Endis Endis, a Central Committee member and president of the province's people's government, stressed how important for our people the current sugar harvest is.

Measures to continue irrigating in areas under microjet irrigation and to bring egg production back up to par, as well as other measures aimed at improving the supply of basic food products to the population, will also be taken.

Production of construction materials in keeping with each municipality's possibilities was another matter discussed at the meeting. This will permit a greater increase in the building of low-cost housing units in the future, as well as (?allow us to tackle) maintenance and new projects.

'Open Agenda' Hosts Legalists on Economic Crime

FL0403160093 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 0225 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Editorial Report] Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish at 0225 GMT on 3 March features on its "Open Agenda" program a discussion of economic crime. Journalist Lucia Gonzalez' guests are Dr. Arturo Nodal, chief of the directorate for monitoring legality, and Arturo Brizuela, the directorate's public prosecutor, both from the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic.

Dr. Nodal defines economic crime as any crime having negative effects on the national economy and the people's economy. Nodal adds that economic crimes occur mostly at the level of the enterprise, in connection with the transport, marketing, and distribution of goods, and to some extent in connection with storage. Nodal explains that the conditions that facilitate economic crime are closely linked to flaws in the internal checks that the enterprises should conduct to detect any type of criminal activity.

Dr. Brizuela explains that regarding the management of enterprises, these flaws have been found to exist all the way down the line; and that having internal monitoring systems at the enterprises is indispensable. He adds that not only should standard procedures for monitoring operations be adhered to, but employees should exercise common sense in keeping track of resources during operations—for example, checking drivers' documents.

Brizuela describes a large problem encountered in late 1990 and early 1991 with loss of shipments of certain products, such as soap, of which "entire truckloads were lost," noting that in the past, because of errors, the criminals got away clean. Brizuela says things improved once enterprises began taking measures to better monitor operations.

Asked whether this means such enterprises are inefficient, Nodal answers that it is simply not possible to run an operation efficiently without adequate internal monitoring and control of the operation's material resources. Nodal points out that there has been an improvement in this regard, adding that "the intervention of the Communist Party of Cuba has been very helpful. Now, as part of the Unified Vigilance and Protection System, the objective of verifying everything having to do with economic controls has been incorporated into the inspection visits, and into all the work."

Asked about what connection, if any, there is between economic crimes and the black market, Nodal says that while some of the stolen goods are certain to end up on the black market, one cannot blame the existence of the black market on this criminal activity.

Nodal goes on to say that the people who commit economic crimes are generally more well educated than those who commit street crimes such as armed robbery. Nodal adds that, "internationally, economic crime is an organized affair. In Cuba, we can say there is a certain amount of criminal organization at this level—the level of the enterprise; but in no way can it be said that it has international connections, or a level of organization equivalent to that which is common in all of today's capitalist societies, in which such economic criminality is connected with the highest levels of government, that is, in which it is a part of financial manipulation and all that. That is substantially different from the manner in which crime occurs in Cuba."

Asked about the role audits are playing, Dr. Brizuela notes that internal audits within enterprises are for all practical purposes non-existent, explaining that very few such audits are conducted, and even when they are, they are often not properly run. He adds, however, that this has been changing recently, with the more important enterprises beginning to include auditors in their internal organization. He points out the need for the auditor to be independent and directly subordinate to the enterprise's highest authority. Dr. Nodal notes that to discourage criminal activity, it is as important to analyze production results as it is to monitor production operations.

Asked if the special period might be causing an increase in the amount of economic crime, Dr. Nodal says criminal conduct cannot be viewed in such a simplistic manner, pointing out that it is influenced by many factors. He says this criminal activity cannot simply be blamed on the existence of shortages.

The program concludes with a video of a case of theft of sacks of sugar, which occurred at the loading and unloading center of the Eastern Railroad central station.

Raul Castro Tours Tourist Sites in Central Region

FL0403232393 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Guided by Politburo member Alfredo Jordan, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] in Ciego de Avila Province, the chiefs of the Western, Central, and Eastern Armies, other generals, and high-level officers of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR] toured tourist projects and other places in Ciego de Avila Province.

Division General Joaquin Quintas Sola warmly congratulated the construction and food service workers on behalf of the visiting group and the FAR minister. This afternoon, the second secretary of the PCC Central Committee, met with residents of the Celia Sanchez community, also known as the Dutch community because of the architecture of the houses.

Raul was interested in the biogas plant, the largest in Cuba, which converts manure from the bull farm into gas for domestic use in the community and a plankton fertilizer by-product, food for the fish in the Laguna de la Leche. The FAR minister inquired about the efficiency of the bull farm, which kills 2,000 bulls annually.

Later he visited the social center and the photo exhibition on Celia Sanchez, who had the initiative to build this village in 1964, where before there were miserable shanties. Lastly, Raul wanted to see a house and one of the residents volunteered before the others. When Raul left he promised to return as soon as possible.

Lack of Electricity Affects Water Supply

FL0503010993 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 2320 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] The Havana City Waterworks announces that because of the instability of the supply of electricity to

certain water supply sources and to plants that send the water through the system, since 2 March, there have been changes in the normal schedules, as well as a decrease in the amount of water provided.

Provincial waterworks authorities are working together with the Electricity Enterprise to reduce the effects of this situation, and apologizes to all those who use its water. It also asks them to do their utmost to conserve water.

* Film Industry in Special Period Discussed

93CA0059B Mexico City PROCESO in Spanish No 846, 18 Jan 93 pp 48-51

[Article by Homero Campa includes discussion with Campa, Alfredo Guevara and Manuel Perez]

[Text] Havana—In the middle of the economic crisis that Cuba is undergoing, Fidel Castro's government made a conclusive decision: It will provide no more state funding for the island's film industry. If the industry wants to survive, it will have to find its own resources.

And it does.

Setting aside socialist considerations, the Cuban film industry broke into the world movie market overnight. Studios, technical equipment, laboratory services, directors, actors, and everything else involved in making movies is now sold, rented, traded, or negotiated in joint productions.

Commercialization has not influenced the "basic principle" of moviemaking in Cuba. "No counterrevolutionary film will be accepted," emphasizes Alfredo Guevara, director of the Cuban Institute of Cinematographic Arts and Industry (ICAIC) and Cuban ambassador to UNESCO.

According to this principle, and with all the hardships imposed by a severe economic crisis, the film projects of Cuban directors must, therefore, be "artistically sound" but "economically viable"; they must be "profound" in content but "marketable" in the world of consumers; they may be "critical if they so desire," but "without attacking the revolution."

To "get them under way," Cuba is seeking financing through partnerships with foreign film companies. There has not been a 100-percent Cuban film in the last two years, and apparently there will not be for many years to come.

And despite the commercialization, the movie industry has felt the impact of the crisis. The ICAIC data tell it all:

- Whereas eight feature films were produced every year before the "special period" was decreed in 1990, now only half that number are produced, in joint efforts with foreign companies. This year fewer than 10 documentaries were produced, compared to 40 in 1988.
- The ICAIC-Latin American news program was discontinued, and the other state entities that used to make movies (ECITV-FAR, ECITV, and Cined) are now making videos.
- Most of the 50-odd directors in Cuba do not make movies; they are involved in television, technical consulting, cinematography research, or teaching film.... If they are completely unemployed, they draw 70 percent of their filmmaker salary: 300 pesos a month at the most.

The directors who do manage to make movies are forced to economize on film. Whereas they used to do eight takes for every scene, now they must get by with five or sometimes only three. The traditional supplier of blank film, the Orwo company of the GDR, was absorbed by Bayer, and it left the Cuban industry in the lurch.

- The vast majority of Cuban theaters (550 on the entire island, 85 in Havana) stopped providing daily shows, and they now show films only at limited times on Saturdays and Sundays. In addition, more than 20 theaters in Havana have been shut down because of their dilapidated condition and the impossibility of repairing them at this time. Some have been converted into gyms or dance halls.
- The number of premieres that Cuban audiences (traditionally knowledgeable and demanding) were able to attend fell from 120 in 1990 to 50 in 1992. The Cuban public went to the movies an average of fewer than two times this year, compared to an average of 13 times a year during the 1970's.

Mergers and Confusion

On 14 May 1991, the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers announced the formation of a state commission to join together in "a suitable structure" all Cuban agencies involved in television and movie production. The reason: "the severe restrictions that will be imposed on the country's economy during a prolonged process."

This decision was a death sentence for the ICAIC, the entity responsible for the development of the Cuban film industry. It would have to merge with the Armed Forces film studios, the moviemaking studios of the television industry, and the studios of the Ministry of Culture.

Directors, technicians, specialists, and officials of the ICAIC protested. There were meetings and declarations in which they expressed their "disagreement" and requested that the decision be "reconsidered" in view of the danger that the independence of artistic creativity might be jeopardized and that the work which "for over 20 years has lent international prestige to the island's films" might all come to naught.

The decision coincided with the controversy over the display and withdrawal of the tape "Alice in Wonder Town," which was called "counterrevolutionary" by the country's political leadership, and the resignation of Julio Garcia Espinoza as director of the ICAIC.

He was replaced by Alfredo Guevara, a filmmaker who was a founder of the organization. He came from Paris, where he had been serving as Cuba's ambassador to UNESCO. Guevara, a friend of Fidel Castro's since childhood, smoothed over differences and promoted the new strategy for the survival of the Cuban film industry: self-financing.

The merger of the film and television entities did not take place, but officially, the possibility has not been abandoned.

"The commission responsible for this has been formed, but it has not met again. I think the issue has been dropped," comments Alfredo Guevara.

[Campa] Does this mean that the merger may still take place?

[Guevara] I have heard nothing further about that, and I do not want to talk about something I do not agree with....

According to information provided by Benigno Iglesias, vice president of the ICAIC, before the special period the Cuban Government provided a budget of 50 to 60 million pesos. Approximately 1 million pesos in dollars was provided to obtain equipment and materials abroad.

Now, the government subsidizes the Center for Cinematography Research, the Film Archive, and the Film Distribution Enterprise, but it does not give a single peso (not to mention dollars, of course) for film production.

Overnight, the ICAIC became a Hollywood-style company.

"The best way to produce films in the Caribbean: ICAIC Productions," says one of the brochures that were distributed at the recent Festival of the New Latin American Cinema. It offers rentals of studios and filming equipment; development, printing, editing, audio and video services; natural-looking sets, technical advice, actors...everything.

Films: Cuban Business

According to Frank Cabrera, assistant director of production at the ICAIC, it costs $8,220 to have the negatives developed for a 100-minute feature film; printing and copying the print costs $11,508; three correction copies cost $4,932; renting an Arriflex BLIII camera for six weeks of filming costs $15,600; and a dolly machine with an Elemack crane costs $120 per day. For a first-rate actor working on the set for six weeks of filming, a foreign company would have to pay the ICAIC $6,000 (the ICAIC pays them 4,000 Cuban pesos). For a leading role, an actor gets $150 a day, $100 for a minor role; if he acts in the nude, he gets $100 to $200 extra per day. Of course, these prices will go up by 15 to 25 percent in 1993, says Cabrera.

It costs less than a million dollars to produce a movie in Cuba. "Really very cheap," says Cabrera, "less than a third of what the same production costs in France. The Americans will not make a movie for less than $7 million. Our prices are 20 percent cheaper than Mexico's."

Cabrera admits, however, that Cuba does not have the technical infrastructure to make a Hollywood-style "blockbuster." "Those cost more than $40 million. Some of them spend a million a day. He also admits that the economic blockade makes it difficult for them to import technical equipment, film, and laboratory materials. Moreover, they are restricted in the credit they can obtain for expanding their infrastructure.

[Campa] Does Cuba run the risk of becoming a mere movie *maquiladora*?

Alfredo Guevara says no: "We will do this as long as it suits us. When it begins to damage our interests, we will stop doing it, period. We are using this as a means to survive during this special period, not as a production style, which would brand us indelibly in a market economy, but in a directed economy, it is just one more resource."

According to Benigno Iglesias, joint productions and providing cinematography services generate $2 million a year in income, free and clear. "This allows us to continue our film production during this crisis period," he notes.

Recent joint productions undertaken by Cuba include: "End of Round" and "Parallel Lives" with Venezuela; "Adorable Lies" with Spain; and with France, the "great production" of "The Century of Lights," Cuban filmmaker Humberto Solas's movie based on the novel by Alejo Carpentier.

Cuba plans to jointly produce the film "The Pink Bolero" with Mexico. It will be directed by Enrique Pineda, who also directed "The Beautiful Woman of the Alhambra."

"Talks are being held with Ignacio Duran, director of Imcine," says Camilo Vives, director of production at the ICAIC.

Film and Counterrevolution

To win ICAIC approval and institutional and financial support, a Cuban film project must first be submitted to one of three "creation groups on the island for their approval. These groups are made up of the filmmakers themselves, who can veto a proposal if they think it is wrong" or "has no potential." Then it is submitted to the ICAIC for its consideration. The ICAIC reviews the project with two basic criteria in mind: whether it is "viable from the economic point of view," and whether it is "artistically sound." Director Alfredo Guevara also has veto power.

Does submitting something to the "creation group" amount to censorship?

Cuban director Manuel Perez is the leader of one of the island's three "creation groups." Out of this group came films such as "The Beautiful Woman of the Alhambra" (Enrique Pineda), "Hello Hemingway" (Fernando Perez), and the controversial "Alice in Wonder Town" (Daniel Diaz Torres).

He says, "There is no censorship because the director can leave the group and submit the film directly to the ICAIC leadership. There are about six filmmakers who are not in any group, and they are treated with respect. This freedom to be in a group is only possible if there is trust and professional respect among fellow filmmakers. But when a project is presented by a group, it has more clout with the state (represented by the ICAIC) than one presented by an individual."

According to Perez, all a project needs for approval is to "look like a good film." If its topic is "complex" politically, the debate in the "creation group" will focus on whether "that complexity will work in artistic terms."

He elaborates: "There is no desideratum of ideological criteria that a film needs to meet for approval. It may deal with political issues and be very critical. It must always do so with artistic integrity; the more artistically it is produced, the more unassailable it will be on ideological grounds. It is dangerous, however, to deal with a problem of revolutionary principles in a cinematic work."

[Campa] But can those principles pressure a director to censor himself?

[Perez] There are no safe bets in art. A lot happens between the initial synopsis that is submitted by the director and the final version of the film, and there is a very fine line between self-censorship and a sense of responsibility. That happens everywhere. Any creator in Mexico must deal with a producer, and if his project is not approved, no matter what the reason, he is facing economic censorship. The market imposes conditions, and environmental pressures are not the exclusive domain of socialist countries.

Alfredo Guevara says that if a film has no artistic content, he is not interested in it. He also asserts that if it is "counterrevolutionary," it is "unacceptable" from the word go.

[Campa] Even if it is artistically unassailable?

[Guevara] Yes, even then. But that would be difficult to imagine. I have not seen a single case so far. In films, the truly artistic is profound, constructive. The counterrevolutionary confines itself to insult, and we will not allow that.

The man in charge of the Cuban cinema denies that there are taboo subjects for film production on the island. "Anything can be dealt with," he says, "as long as the person has the talent to do it."

He explains: "In a society in a state of tension like ours, you need intelligence and ability to criticize the revolution without breaking with it. Staying on this side of the street and not going over to the other side to throw stones is difficult for a revolutionary creator. So it takes intellectual development and theoretical and artistic principles that not everyone has. The more profound and sublime the criticism in a work, the more difficult it is to classify as counterrevolutionary."

Reasons for "Alice"

Daniel Diaz Torres's "Alice in Wonder Town" was shown in June of last year. It is a satire on Cuban society and its "vices": bureaucracy, pretense, authoritarianism, intolerance. After being shown for four days, it was banned from the screen by the country's "political leadership." The "scandal" that ensued led to Julio Garcia Espinoza's departure from the post of ICAIC director and his immediate replacement by Alfredo Guevara.

[Campa] Is the film "Alice in Wonder Town" a counterrevolutionary work?

[Guevara] I do not consider it counterrevolutionary.

[Perez] Of course it was made to defend the revolution.

[Campa] And why was it taken off the screen?

[Perez] "Alice" was thought out in the mid-1980's and shown right in the middle of the special period. There was a different context that led to misinterpretations. Moreover, the siege mentality that is generated by a blockade caused people to overreact in interpreting the film. Under those circumstances, there was less tolerance in the debate. In addition, the film and the discussion of it became distorted. People went to see it to attack it or to stop it, come hell or high water.

[Guevara] Works of art are rich in varied interpretations. The problem with "Alice" is that only two very direct political interpretations arose out of it: counterrevolutionary and pro-revolutionary.

He maintains that if he had been at the ICAIC, this would not have happened. "During the years when I was director a lot of 'Alices' were made, and they will continue to be shown. The problem is, this film did not have enough malice; it did not have the sense to be more effective in what it as saying."

Barbados

Official on Transshipment Point for Drugs

FL0503000093 Bridgetown CANA in English 2023 GMT 4 Mar 93

[By Linda Hutchinson]

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, March 4, CANA—Barbados Attorney-General Maurice King said here

Thursday that his homeland was an attractive transshipment point for narcotics drugs because of its geographical location and relatively modern communications.

"Though there is evidence of the existence and use of illegally obtained drugs on the island, Barbados is neither a major consumer nor a primary producer of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances," King said.

"However, its geographical location and relatively modern communications make it an attractive transshipment point between the primary producing countries of South America and the lucrative markets of Western Europe and North America."

Speaking on the topic "Money Laundering—The Barbados Experience" on the last day of a three-day symposium on money laundering, King added, "Barbados' relatively prosperous population of approximately 250,000 is bolstered by an annual transient tourist population of half a million visitors which makes it a significant secondary market for illicit drugs.

"Additionally, Barbados position as a growing financial services centre obviously increases the risk of it being used from time to time as a centre for international money laundering operations."

The attorney general noted that Barbados could not therefore afford to be complacent about these international developments and added that the country was among the earliest Caribbean states to pass legislation putting in place a legal framework for international cooperation in the fight against international crime, particularly drug trafficking and money laundering.

Stating that Barbados has made substantial progress in tackling the problem of transnational criminal activity, King said the country's domestic laws have been substantially modernized and brought in line with international initiatives particularly in the area of drug trafficking and drug-related money laundering.

"Although thus far, the relevant authorities have not had occasion to charge anyone locally with drug-related money laundering nor to request legal assistance from any other country, this does not detract from the significance which the developments in Barbados have to fight against international crime in general," he told the symposium.

"The provisions of the laws of Barbados.... Ensure that Barbados will be in a position to adequately deal locally with the problem and to cooperate with other members of the international community whenever the occasion arises."

Dominican Republic

* Forestry Directorate Activities Detailed

* Achievements 1990-92

93CA0067A Santo Domingo EL SIGLO in Spanish 9 Jan 93 p 8-D

[Article by Marino Zapete C.]

[Text] Although he had to devote a great deal of time to responding to attacks by people who did not share his way of doing things, Colonel Pedro de Jesus Candelier Tejada created a revolution in the General Forestry Directorate in the two years and seven months in which he functioned as director.

On 23 May 1990, when President Joaquin Balaguer named him Director, the General Forestry Directorate was a kind of a "skeleton" institution, unknown by a good portion of the population, with no operational capacity, and lacking even the least respect on the part of the citizenry.

Its main headquarters, located on the third floor of the Community Development Office in La Feria, looked like a badly kept marketplace, and its provincial offices were located in rented sites, in terrible condition, and in rooms borrowed from some military barracks.

The operational condition of the personnel could not have been worse, since with few exceptions, employees had no means of transportation, the communications system did not function, and economic resources were nonexistent.

In two years and seven months Forestry changed. Candelier's management, like all things human, was not perfect, but he left an institution that was having an impact in the country, and which had the operational capacity to continue progressing.

With respect to physical infrastructure, Candelier's administration left Forestry's headquarters in conditions that had nothing to envy the offices of private firms or those of international organizations.

He constructed and equipped a seed laboratory with a cold room, which permits the organization to collect and distribute seeds all year long, and to solve the sterility problem.

In the same central headquarters various buildings were constructed, including a cafeteria, an employee club, and a library where thousands of students repair to seek information related to the sector.

Outside the capital, Candelier's administration built offices serving the forest districts of Higuey, San Juan de la Maguana, San Francisco de Macoris, and Santiago de los Caballeros, and almost finished those in Bayaguana, Barahona, Duverge, and Pedernales.

Candelier remodeled and put into operation the National Forestry School in Jarabacoa, which had been abandoned for several years. Currently, dozens of youths are being trained at that school in the field of forestry.

Forest Projects

Although he has dedicated a good part of his time to punishing violations of forestry laws, his administration has also made great strides in strengthening productive areas.

In Novillero, Villa Altagracia, he built a model project which uses the directed root method, with a capacity of producing two million plants per year, to protect the banks of the Nizao River.

In the environs of Oviedo, he built the Nizaito project, with a capacity of one million plants per year, with a view to protecting the upper banks of the Nizaito River and its tributaries.

In Sanchez Ramirez Province he built the Hatillo project, with a capacity of a million plants per year, for the purpose of protecting the banks of the Yuna River and the areas of influence of the Hatillo dam.

In El Cercado, San Juan de la Maguana Province, he built the Macasia project, with a capacity of a million plants per year, to protect the upper banks of the Macasia River and its tributaries.

In the community of Jamao al Norte, Espaillat Province, he built a project with a capacity of a million plants per year, which will be aimed at the upper and middle banks of the Jamao River and its tributaries.

The most important project under his administration, that of Hainamosa, with a capacity of 15 million plants per year through the direct root method, is now almost complete and its inauguration has been planned for the end of next month.

With the Hainamosa project, Forestry ensures the plants required to reforest the banks of the Nizao River and its tributaries, which supply water for the Jiguey, Augacate, and Valdesia dams, as well as the Valdesia-Santo Domingo aqueduct.

During Colonel Candelier's administration, Forestry expanded and remodeled the 87 nurseries that existed when he arrived, which has significantly increased the supply of the institution's plants.

Through his intervention new protected zones have been declared, and wherever possible a series of decrees have been applied to protect the rivers and forests.

Many business people began construction facilities to treat the polluting effluents they deposited in the water. Some completed their facilities before the administration's end.

Many pigfarms have also been dismantled, because they were located on the banks of rivers from which the poorest families took their water supplies.

To ensure effective work, Candelier provided trucks to those personnel responsible for forest districts, and motorcycles to those responsible for subdistricts, which made the personnel's work more effective.

Charcoal consumption was reduced by 70 percent, which has resulted in a substantial decrease in burn areas, which had been very abundant in the country.

He formed a fire control team, which he provided with all the facilities necessary to carry out their work, including a communications network that covers even the most isolated areas.

Although it has not been reported in the media, this reporter is aware that Colonel Candelier has dismantled clandestine sawmills and seized precious woods on farms of high government officials, which had never occurred before.

The reactivation of obligatory forestry service has permitted thousands of students from grade schools and high schools to participate in conservation and planting programs, which serve as an education mechanism.

As it has not been measured, there is no way of quantifying the number of Dominicans who have a new attitude toward natural resources, but it is obvious that there is a great number who have become aware during Colonel Candelier's administration that they are prohibited from cutting trees, polluting rivers, or causing other environmental damage.

Today, there are few Dominicans who, when felling trees, extracting materials from the riverbanks , or carrying out actions damaging to the environment, do not think about Forestry.

The National Congress has not modified the bylaws of the General Forestry Directorate, to bring them up to date with today's needs, but this was not for lack of a proposal, since during Colonel Candelier's administration one was prepared and documented.

In short, Colonel Candelier is one of the few officials of this or any other Dominican government who, after leading an institution for two years and seven months, can say, "Mission accomplished."

* Policy Reversal

93CA0067B Santo Domingo EL SIGLO in Spanish 21 Jan 93 p 3

[Article by Esteban Rosario]

[Text] Santiago—Almost a month since Colonel Pedro de Jesus Candelier stepped down as General Director of Forestry, the firms that he had censured for polluting the Yaque del Norte River have stopped building effluent treatment facilities.

The principal industries, tanneries, distilleries, builders, and producers of rum and other products are continuing to pollute the country's largest river, despite Decree 221, which orders protection of the environment.

As soon as the owners learned of Colonel Candelier's resignation, they immediately stopped building the effluent treatment facilities.

Forestry officials since Colonel Candelier's departure have not returned to visit the firms he censured.

It seems that the new Forestry director, Engineer Francisco Amaro Guzman, has not followed up on the measures and actions taken by his predecessor.

In the Cibao region, where Colonel Candelier closed almost 15 companies for polluting the Yaque del Norte River, the country's principal river, and other tributaries, the construction of the facilities has stopped.

At this time the Yaque River and its tributaries and irrigation canals carry garbage, industrial waste, chemicals, and other substances damaging to health.

The companies that have stopped construction of the effluent treatment plants in the Cibao are Bermudez, in the Bermudez distillery and tannery; Brugal distillery; Nunez enterprises, which produces granite and construction materials; and Hoyo de Lima Industrial.

The other companies are Bojos tanneries; Cibao Pork Producers; Licey, which produces batteries; two slaughterhouses in Nagua; Ochoa Hermanos; and others located in Constanza, San Francisco de Macoris, Puerto Plata, and La Sierra.

The largest river in the country, the Yaque del Norte is in critical condition and the measures that were taken earlier are no longer having positive effects.

In different parts of Santiago and other towns, dozens of people in wooden boats are taking sand and gravel from the river and other important tributaries.

Charcoal sales have increased in recent days. Trucks, pickups, and other vehicles are traveling easily these days loaded with the product.

The case of Cibao Cementera is one of the most difficult to believe. With three attempts on Colonel Candelier's part to close it, or force it to install filters to prevent environmental pollution, three years later it has still not installed them.

Now the factory has caused the disappearance of a small stream nearby, while the agricultural effects have been disastrous. Tobacco, corn, beans, and other short-cycle crops have been affected.

Guyana

PNC Expels Hamilton Green; South Africa Seeks Advice

FL0403141193 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1100 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] In Guyana, the opposition People's National Congress, the PNC, has formally expelled former prime minister and deputy leader. Hamilton Green, for what it calls gross insubordination. Mr. Green was accused of publicly insulting the former president, Desmond Hoyte, during a bout of recrimations after their party lost the recent elections.

Guyana is meanwhile being sought for advice by the African National Congress [ANC]. ANC President Nelson Mandela says a representative will be sent to Georgetown to study the Guyanese electoral history as South Africa moves toward multi-party elections.

Haiti

Caputo Announces OAS Observers To Protect Romelus

FL0403161293 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Excerpt] The first point in the news this morning is that members from the group of 56 OAS observers will travel to Jeremie shortly to protect Bishop... [pauses] Monsignor Willy Romelus in that city, according to a statement by the OAS and UN mediator in the Haitian crisis, former Argentine Foreign Affairs Minister Dante Caputo. In a statement to AFP, Caputo accused the Haitian Government of failing to meet its commitment to the OAS and the United Nations. He said the political repression of the last few days constitutes a very serious situation in Haiti. Caputo said he has not been in touch with the current Haitian authorities for over two weeks. He added, however, that he communicates with the civilian mission several times a day.

The international mediator announced that he just received a report stating that Msgr. Romelus has security problems in the Jeremie diocese. Dante Caputo states that although the Jeremie bishop has not been victimized by any other repressive actions since the 25 February events, since he believes that Msgr. Romelus may have problems of personal safety, he intends to send observers to protect the bishop. [passage omitted]

French Embassy Denies Intruding on Parliament

FL0403220193 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] The president of one of the branches in the Senate, Thomas Eddy Dupiton, has accused the French

Embassy of having committed a blatant act of interference and violation of the Haitian parliament. The French Embassy in Port-au-Prince quickly denied this.

In the newspaper LE MATIN, Thomas Eddy Dupiton asserts that a group of foreign journalists led by the French deputy chief of mission in Port-au-Prince, took the premises of the legislative palace by surprise and filmed at ease, without the knowledge of the Senate office. The nationality of the journalists was not specified. It should be recalled that the Senate is not recognized by the opposition to the government of Prime Minister Marc Bazin.

The French Embassy categorically denied that the deputy chief of mission or any other diplomat from the embassy had gone during the past days to the Haitian Legislative Palace, refuting as such the accusations of Senator Eddy Dupiton. The embassy added that none of its staff had gone to the Haitian parliament since the beginning of this year and to its knowledge, no French television team had been in Port-au-Prince in the past few days.

Senators Reportedly Engage in 'Brawl' in Parliament

FL0303230293 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Excerpts] A sudden new development has arisen in the month-long conflict rocking the Senate of the Republic with the senators of the opposition and those of the parliamentary bloc. The senators came to blows on 2 March. The first victims were the parliamentarians of the opposition bloc. This was a situation that almost turned into a catastrophe on 2 March at the Senate.

On the morning of 2 March, Senator Thomas Eddy Dupiton asked the police to help obtain the departure of a group of guests, who were meeting with several opposition bloc senators. Several senators were allegedly attacked during this incident, which caused tension at the Senate. Ansy Rose Resignac filed the following report.

[Begin recording] [Resignac] It is not easy to give an extensive account of the incident, given that part of it took place behind closed doors. However, there were statements made by the presidents of both offices of the Senate. Allow me to say that the incident started while several senators of the constitutionalist bloc were meeting with a group of guests in the session room.

Considering those guests as foreign bodies, Thomas Eddy Dupiton, president of the office led by the Alliance [for Parliamentary Cohesion], asked them to leave the room. The senators of the opposing bloc categorically refused to, arguing that such a measure should also be applied to, and I quote, the nine individuals chosen from the 18 January elections, unquote. The guests finally agreed to leave upon the request of policemen who were passing by the room. According to Sen. Firmin Jean-Louis, president of the Senate office, and supported by the opposition, the rest was not pleasant to see.

[Firmin, in Creole] Weapons, many weapons were pulled out. [Words indistinct] They were having a quarrel. [Words indistinct] ask the police when there is a brawl. How can I be more specific. Weapons were pulled out. Some were pulled out; others were about to be pulled out. The military was outside. We were in session. The doors were closed. [Words indistinct] I do not know. Go ask the Alliance. The senators hit many people, not just me. They turned over chairs. There was fighting. A certain Mr. Rosny was there. The person who hit me was not a senator. It was a foreigner, a man who was in the room. Rosny Eugene hit me. He took my radio away from me. I do not know him. He was with the senators.

[Resignac] As for Thomas Eddy Dupiton, senator-president of the office supported by the pro-governmental bloc, he thinks the senators of the so-called constitutionalist acted that way in order to embarrass the Republic. [passage omitted] Thomas Eddy Dupiton denied that senators were attacked during the incident on 2 March.

[Dupiton, in Creole] Nothing like that happened. The senator said that weapons were even drawn. Sen. Parent said so. But Sen. Parent is blind. Nothing happened. Those gentlemen have imagined it in order to embarrass the Republic. Yesterday, they invited the French attache without official authorization. They came in, they filmed, they looked at the conditions of the place, like they were the high and mighty ones. They want to embarrass us. They have always had a file on repression. They would like for us to ask the Army to intervene. The Army will not do that because the Army knows they are waiting for that. When they asked some guests to create trouble, we asked for reinforcements. But because the ushers and the president of the Senate asked them to leave, they refused to leave, insisting on staying. We then asked the police to intervene and make them leave.

[Resignac] Sen. Edrice Raymond, who said he had been attacked, intends to meet with the press today to express his opinion of the incident. Remember that on 1 March, Sen. Julio Larosilliere thought that the government had some say in the situation at the Haitian parliament. [end recording]

Symposium Participant Criticizes UN/OAS Policy

FL0403214493 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] The first item in the news this morning is the international symposium that began on 3 March in Port-au-Prince. The symposium concerns the solidarity of black people and human rights. Twenty four countries from Europe, North America, Africa, and Asia are taking part. The symposium is being held for three days and is organized by the Institute on African Studies and Research of Haiti and by Haiti International. According

to the organizers, the symposium will address the need for interaction and knowledge. This symposium gathers 200 Haitian participants and 58 foreign representatives.

It should be noted that Jean (Guillon) of France, in charge of the Paris-based Haiti International, criticized in his 3 March opening speech the conduct of the international community in the Haitian crisis and the OAS embargo which violates, according to him, the United Nations Charter on Human Rights by starving the population.

In speaking on Tele-Haiti on 3 March, Haitian researcher Laenec Hurbon, director of research at the National Center on Scientific Research in Paris and author of several books, called this symposium a political operation and trickery by an internationally isolated government.

Trinidad and Tobago

Minister Says Economic Recovery Linked To Reform

FL0403204093 Bridgetown CANA in English 2008 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, March 4, CANA—Trinidad and Tobago's Junior Finance Minister Ken Valley says reform of the state enterprise sector is "intimately" linked with returning the national economy to a positive growth path. At a roundtable discussion on state enterprises here Wednesaday, Valley noted Trinidad and Tobago has been experiencing a prolonged period of negative growth and said the achievement of growth objectives was contingent on the attainment of appropriate fiscal and external balances which, he added, were both significantly affected by the state enterprise sector.

Valley said in terms of the fiscal imperatives, the government's medium term policy framework targeted the achievement of fiscal surpluses beginning this year.

"One of the measures outlined to assist in achieving this target is the rationalization and reorganization of the state enterprise sector including the divestment of selected state enterprises," he said.

Valley said the performance of the state sector was mixed over the last decade with some enterprises contributing significantly to the national economy through their contributions to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and to foreign exhange earnings from exports. Others had done less well and losses they incurred could not be sustained now, the minister said. Valley said the sector accounted for a large part of the country's U.S. 3 billion dollar external debt which had to be serviced from scarce foreign exchange.

"It is envisaged that the divestment programme will generate significant capital inflows that will assist in meeting our formidable debt service obligations," he said.

He said government has specifically targeted the divestment of Fertilizers of Trinidad and Tobago (Fertrin) and the Trinidad and Tobago Urea Company for meeting debt service obligations.

"We are expecting to receive these proceeds by the end of the first quarter of this year," he said.

"But even more than that, this particular transaction involving foreign investors sends a signal to the international investor community that Trinidad and Tobago is ready for business.

"The involvement of foreign capital in this transaction certainly augments the growing investor mass in the country and must be regarded as a positive development."

Government has targeted 24 state companies out of a total of 83 for total or partial divestment.

Chinese Foreign Minister on Trade, Dissidents

PA0503125593 Mexico City XHTV Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen has ended his visit to Mexico. He gave a news conference before leaving and said trade between the two countries exceeded $300 million in 1992, which was a relatively low amount. He asserted that political dissidents are not persecuted in the PRC as long as they do not break the law or threaten national security. The Chinese foreign minister traveled from Mexico to South America, where he will visit four countries.

* Center Reviews Human Rights Violation Data

93CA0064A Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 25 Jan 93 p 36

[Report by Salvador Guerrero Chipres]

[Text] During the first three years of this administration, 16,202 people were subjected to threats, injuries, arbitrary arrests, disappearance, torture, or murder at the hands of government agencies, according to data gathered by nongovernmental human rights organizations.

The Miguel Agustin Pro-Human Rights Center has compiled a study based on data from the National Commission of Human Rights (CNDH), from a few of the organizations that make up the "strict list" of 99 entities that are "completely and exclusively devoted to the defense of those rights," and from "direct sources," as well as the press in some cases, says Jesus Maldonado Garcia, director of the center.

Between the inauguration of President Carlos Salinas de Gortari and 1 December 1991, according to the 13-page document, peasants have been particularly hard hit. That is why the document is titled "Modernization and Repression."

The greatest number of cases occurred in the most impoverished states, where political opposition to the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) is fiercest.

With a total of 7,787 cases of repression, peasants account for nearly twice as many cases as those recorded in urban areas (3,984), and three times as many as those involving political organizations (2,401).

As for the labor sector, the nongovernmental organizations indicate that 2,033 cases have been recorded in three years.

In 1989, 5,310 cases were documented. In 1990, the number exploded to 8,790. During 1991, a federal election year, a total of 2,105 cases of repression were reported.

The document goes on to say that 48 percent of the acts "of repression" were perpetrated against peasants; 24 percent involved the individual rights of urban residents; 15 percent were carried out against members of political organizations—especially the Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD)—and 13 percent involved the labor sector.

Moreover, the largest percentage of deaths took place among peasants. The study notes that a total of 88 peasants were killed in 1989, nine of them leaders. The following year, 68 farmworkers were killed, including four leaders, and in 1991, 48 were killed, with five peasant representatives on the list. The death toll suffered by opposition party organizations was 21 in 1989, 86 in 1990, and 29 the following year.

The murders in urban areas, sometimes accompanied by torture, totaled 15 in 1989, 45 in 1990, and 34 in 1991.

According to the data compiled in the Miguel Agustin Pro-Human Rights Center, in the first half of this presidential term peasants reported increasing numbers of cases of repression, with the exception of a significant drop in repression in late 1991: In 1989, 31 percent of the cases involved farmworkers; in 1990, the figure was 57 percent, and the following year, 51 percent.

The most severely threatened peasant organization was the Emiliano Zapata Peasant Union (UCEZ), with 99 cases; it was followed by the Emiliano Zapata Peasant Organization (OCEZ), with 67; the National Coordinating Board of Indigenous Peoples (CNPI), with 55; the Popular Peasant and Worker General Union (UGOCP), with 43; Peasant Torch, with 24; and the Emiliano Zapata Eastern Democratic Front of Mexico (FDOMEZ), with nine.

The states reporting the largest number of cases of repression between December 1988 and December 1991 are: Guerrero, 683; Veracruz, 317; Yucatan, 304; Michoacan, 271; Hidalgo, 244; Oaxaca, 108; Mexico, 64; Tabasco, 55; Chiapas, 50; Puebla, 37; Federal District, 22; Guanajuato, 20; and San Luis Potosi, 14.

The study points out that the largest number of incidents occurred precisely in the states where opposition is greatest, normally led by the PRD, and in the case of Yucatan, by the National Action Party (PAN). These are also the places where the struggle for open and credible elections has been the fiercest.

In the "General Context" section of the document, it is stated that during the first half of Carlos Salinas de Gortari's administration, the government's economic and political strategy "has been carried out relentlessly."

The repression, it notes, is the counterpart of the successful implementation of an economic development model within an international strategy: "Mexico is efficiently joining the prevailing current."

El Salvador

Ponce Supports President on Truth Commission Report

PA0403154893 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Defense Minister General Rene Emilio Ponce stated that he will be subject to any decision President Alfredo Cristiani may make in the event that his name appears on the Truth Commission report.

According to Ponce, he is a public official and is therefore subject to anything the president may decide. He hoped that the Truth Commission's mission would be carried out objectively.

Defense Minister Ponce defended President Cristiani's position concerning delaying the disclosure of the names in the Truth Commission report. He said that Christiani's only objective is to avoid the spreading of unfounded political rumors.

Arena President Favors Making Truth Commission Names Public

PA0503022093 San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 3 Mar 93 p 1

[Text] Armando Calderon Sol, president of the Nationalist Republican Alliance (Arena), said on 3 March that the Truth Commission should make public the names of those who are responsible for serious human rights violations; that is, Calderon said, if they have enough evidence that those people are guilty of bloodshed during the armed conflict.

The right-wing politician said that the members of the Truth Commission created under the peace agreements should be responsible for their report because the reputations of those allegedly responsible for serious incidents that moved the community are at stake.

In Calderon's opinion, the report will serve to heal war wounds and contribute to consolidating the fragile national reconciliation process.

The Arena president ruled out the possibility of a violent reaction from those sectors mentioned in the report, which will be made public on 15 March.

Calderon said: "The violent stage has been left behind." He expressed his satisfaction for the peace process that the community in general is enjoying.

In the political leader's opinion, the Truth Commission report should not be taken as a confrontation because such an attitude goes against the spirit of the Chapultepec, Mexico, agreements.

Calderon continued, saying that Arena hopes this report will contribute to national reconciliation and end the Salvadoran tragedy.

These statements were made after the Arena leader participated in the inauguration of the new Cuscatancingo Court facilities, at which Supreme Court of Justice and Legislative Assembly authorities were also present.

FMLN Favors Disclosing Names

PA0503031893 San Salvador Radio Venceremos Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Juan Ramon Medrano, secretary of press and propaganda of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN], said the Truth Commission report must be disclosed to the public. He added that the names of those involved in serious acts of violence in the country must be made public on 15 March. The FMLN is ready to face any political or legal consequences that may result from the sins the FMLN committed during the war.

[Begin Medrano recording] I believe the government should change its position and cease obstructing the process. There must be some open-minded people in the government and Armed Forces to make the necessary decisions to effect true democracy, respect for human rights and, above all, subjection of military power to civilian power. Under these conditions, we believe it is fundamental that the truth be known entirely. We also believe that, at the same time, the political class, the political parties, and the [word indistinct] forces nationwide must be mature enough not to use the list of names and other information included in the Truth Commission report as an electoral propaganda issue. We believe it is most important that [words indistinct] the Armed Forces as a repressive organization. [end recording]

Juan Ramon Medrano, the FMLN press secretary, said all Salvadorans have the right to know the truth; a truth they experienced for 12 years of war and which caused pain for many Salvadorans.

FMLN Urges Cristiani To Purge Military Officers

PA0403142693 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] The Farabundo Marti National Liberation [FMLN] Party again urged President Alfredo Cristiani to purge the 15 high-ranking military officers whose names appeared in the ad hoc commission report.

Former FMLN Commander Leonel Gonzalez accused President Cristiani of violating the section of the peace agreement dealing with purging the Army.

Gonzalez told the press that Cristiani has only removed lower-ranking officers, refusing to discharge 15 generals and colonels who, according to recommendations made by the ad hoc commission, should be purged from the military.

The FMLN leader said that on several occasions, UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali has called on President Cristiani to honor all requests to purge the

Army. Gonzalez said that the U.S. Government could withhold the next disbursement of aid to El Salvador, which is conditioned to honoring the peace agreements by the government.

Government Recognizes Czech, Slovak Republics

PA0503025193 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2229 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Text] San Salvador, 1 Mar (ACAN-EFE)—The Salvadoran Government announced on 1 March its "full recognition" of the Czech and Slovak Republics, declared independent on 21 November 1992 as part of the changes that have taken place in Eastern Europe.

A communique issued by the Salvadoran Foreign Ministry said that the government, considering statements by the Czech Republic's National Council and by the Slovak Republic's National Council to become sovereign and independent states as of 1993, had decided to grant them full recognition.

The communique adds that El Salvador hopes in the near future and based on common agreement to continue with the new republics, in the manner most convenient for reciprocal interests, the diplomatic relations that existed with the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic.

The Salvadoran Government recognizes the two European republics because both will formally succeed in establishing their rights before third nations and international organizations, as did the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic. They will base their international relations on the principles and objectives outlined in the UN Charter.

The communique underlines that the new states "constitute a political reality within the international context and have been accepted as members with full rights at the United Nations."

Honduras

Armed Forces Spokesman Downplays VOA Report

PA0503040593 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 4 Mar 93 p 59

[Text] Although official spokesman Guillermo Pagan Solorzano has downplayed a report aired by the official U.S. station Voice of America (VOA), he announced that the Armed Forces are drafting a reply to the report, which he described as "the airing of repeated crass remarks."

Pagan said the Armed Forces have reacted very calmly to a VOA commentary implying that Armed Forces Commander General Luis Alonso Discua Elvir forcibly remained in his post for a second term and that the military institution is being run like a business.

Pagan said: "This has occurred because VOA programming covers a wide range and contains opinions that do not necessarily concur with those of the incumbent U.S. Government. If the report had been an editorial, it would be the official position of the Clinton administration."

He added: "George Flakus wrote that commentary in Costa Rica, where other attacks against the military institution and the enterprises of the Military Welfare Institute have been made."

Pagan continued: "We believe that he (Flakus) has reported distorted, false, and outdated information, which shows that he is not in touch with the current situation."

The military spokesman said, however, that the Armed Forces are concerned about the VOA report and drafting a reply. He said: "The report is being viewed as one aired at a time when there is confrontation and conflicting opinions at the national level."

Pagan stated: "The report went beyond the established five-minute limit and this is outside the norm. We are drafting a reply."

The spokesman concluded: "We reject George Flakus's opinion because it is incorrect. We will explain to him how Gen. Discua was nominated to remain in his post for three more years."

Nicaragua

Army Staff Chief Briefs Committee on Budget

PA0403025793 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish 2200 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Text] Colonel Oswaldo Lacayo, Sandinist People's Army General Staff second chief, told the National Assembly Economic Affairs, Finance, and Budget Committee on 3 March that in May 1993 2,700 Army officers will enroll in the first military academy in Nicaragua in almost 14 years. He arrived at the National Assembly instead of General Humberto Ortega, who was summoned to explain the Army budget. According to Lacayo, the Army will have a budget of 219 million cordobas and he said there will not be a further reduction in personnel. The military academy is part of the professionalization of the Army. The budget for this year will also include resources to fight drug trafficking, Lacayo added.

* Text of Health Workers Agreement

93CA0061B Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 18 Jan 93 p 10

[Ministry of Health Communique, Office of Public Relations]

[Text] **Agreements Between MINSA and FETSALUD**

In the City of Managua, at nine o'clock on the night of 15 January 1993, Minister of Health Martha Palacio

Fernandez, Esq.; Dr. Emilio Pereira, minister of finance; Dr. Francisco Rosales, minister of labor; and the representatives of FETSALUD [Federation of Health Workers], Dr. Gustavo Porras, general secretary; Mrs. Evelin Umana, Managua; Mrs. Iris Montenegro Blandon, Managua; Blanca Nubia Ruiz Mendoza, Jinotega; Fidel Gutierrez, Granada; Jacaranda Fernandez Mejia, Masaya; Jaime Pulido Pulido, Leon; Juan Picado, Chinandega; Telma Lopez Zuniga, Matagalpa; Juan Pablo Morales, V Region; Delia Lau Blanco, Granada; Carmen Alegria Salazar, Carazo; Luis del Palacio, Managua; Miguel Jara, Tipitapa; Roberto Mejia, Regional Executive Committee; Dr. Roger Chavez, Fernando Velez Paiz Hospital; Dr. Adac Moncada, Carlos Marx Hospital; Graciela Lopez, Lenin Fonseca Hospital; Gioconda Cajina, Bertha Calderon Hospital; and Antonio Ruiz, Residents assembled in the "Dra. Concepcion Palacios" National Health Complex, with the object of reaching Agreement on the labor conflict that began in November 1992 within the Health Sector, and

Both parties being desirous of combining their efforts to provide improved medical attention to the Nicaraguan population, do hereby enter into the following Agreement consisting of the following clauses and stipulations:

Clause I

Collective Agreement

The Ministry of Health (MINSA) and FETSALUD agree to extend the Collective Bargaining Agreement to the month of December 1993. MINSA undertakes to guarantee its implementation.

Both parties, mindful that the Collective Bargaining Agreement lacks full funding, undertake to combine their efforts to seek the needed supplemental funding from the International Community.

Clause II

Job Stability

MINSA shall guarantee for 1993 the positions or scholarships for the graduates of the Yolanda Mayorga School, the graduates of the POLISALES, the doctors beginning their internship, those entering and completing their social service, and new specialists. The parties agree that the total number of MINSA positions shall not exceed the number budgeted for 1993.

MINSA guarantees the job stability of the workers and undertakes not to engage in dismissals nor any other type of reprisal related to the conflict. It shall also reschedule the teaching activities of the residents and interns that were affected during the period of the strike, giving them an acceptable margin of time for their respective evaluations.

FETSALUD undertakes to participate actively with MINSA in the implementation of its policies and programs to improve health services.

Clause III

Medical Supplies

MINSA shall supply the hospitals and health service centers forthwith from existing inventories, and shall implement, within a period of three months, an emergency program to streamline and improve the provision of medical supplies to the different Health Service Units.

FETSALUD shall participate with MINSA in the judicious use of medical and nonmedical supplies so as to ensure that a larger quantity of available resources reaches the population in a more effective form.

Clause IV

Workers Participation

MINSA shall keep FETSALUD informed of the 1993 budgetary situation in order to obtain FETSALUD's participation in the increasing of productivity and the rationalization of the resources available for the implementation of health policies and programs.

FETSALUD undertakes to present the major problems in the health services, and alternatives for resolving them, in the interest of contributing to the successful implementation of work plans.

Clause V

Level of Well-Being and Health of the Workers

1. MINSA and the INSSBI [Nicaraguan Institute of Social Security and Welfare] have agreed jointly to create the agencies needed to administer a health plan that, on the one hand, will facilitate a greater decentralization of resources, and improve MINSA's medical services in the SILAIS [expansion not given] and hospitals; and that, on the other hand, will enable implementation of a pilot project under which the INSSBI will offer insured workers the option of seeking alternative health coverage in the public and private sectors.

Workers insured by MINSA and their beneficiaries will participate in this project, which has been approved for the present year and will expire on 31 December 1993. These workers and their beneficiaries shall be attended by MINSA professionals and paramedics, including general practitioners, physicians in the social service, and resident physicians. Under this project, all of these professionals may also attend patients in the public or private sector.

2. Consequently, MINSA in agreement with the INSSBI will administer the percentage of the medical services corresponding to the contributions of the health workers. The funds obtained in this manner will be used to improve the well-being of the workers.

MINSA will also participate for one year in this pilot project, partially supplementing the funds contributed by the INSSBI with part of the results obtained in the modernization of the MINSA and from other rubrics

corresponding to transfer payments. This pilot project shall be applicable to the workers as of the month of January 1993.

3. FETSALUD undertakes to participate with the institution in raising the quality of MINSA services.

Clause VI

Raising of the Level of Productivity and Quality of Services Provided by MINSA to the Population

1. Supplementary to the implementation of the MINSA decentralization project, and to the INSSBI's opening of options to create alternatives enabling the workers to choose their social coverage, MINSA and FETSALUD agree to discuss and implement a plan for increasing productivity and the quality of the services provided by the institution.

Under this plan, an account will be maintained of the additional revenues produced by the increases in productivity. In consideration of this effort that the workers have undertaken, MINSA may use up to one-third of the resulting incremental revenues to compensate the workers.

2. The productivity plan shall be effective for one year beginning in January 1993.

Clause VII

Government by Law

FETSALUD undertakes to exercise the right to strike within the terms of reference defined by the legislation in effect, and in all cases, to exert every effort to achieve a conciliation.

MINSA recognizes that this negotiation represents the first step in the effort to find integral solutions to the problems of MINSA and of the health workers, who will continue their efforts so that the Ministry of Health may succeed in achieving a sizable improvement in the health services it provides to the population.

Clause VIII

Effective Date and Duration

This agreement is valid for the present year, effective from January 1993.

In witness whereof we sign the present agreement with no modifications whatever, in four identically worded copies.

Martha Palacio F., Esq.
Minister of Health

Dr. Emilio Pereira
Minister of Finance

Dr. Gustavo Porras
Sec. Gen. FETSALUD

Dr. Francisco Rosales A.
Minister of Labor

Mrs. Evelin Umana
FETSALUD-Managua

Mrs. Iris Montenegro
FETSALUD-Managua

Mrs. Blanca N. Ruiz
FETSALUD-Jinotega

Mr. Jaime Pulido P.
FETSALUD-Leon

Mrs. Jacaranda Fernandez
FETSALUD-Masaya

Mr. Fidel Gutierrez
FETSALUD-Granada

Mr. Luis Del Palacio
FETSALUD-Managua

Mrs. Telma Lopez Zuniga
FETSALUD-Matagalpa

Mr. Juan Pablo Morales
FETSALUD-V Region

Mr. Juan Picado
FETSALUD-Chinandega

Mrs. Carmen Alegria O.
FETSALUD-Carazo

Mrs. Delia Lau B.
FETSALUD-Granada

Dr. Roberto Mejia
Reg. Exec. Committee

Dr. Miguel Jara
FETSALUD-Tipitapa

Dr. Adac Moncada
Hosp. Carlos Marx

Dr. Roger Chavez
Hosp. Velez Paiz

Dr. Gioconda Cajina
Hosp. Bertha Calderon

Mrs. Graciela Lopez
Hosp. Lenin Fonseca

Mr. Isidro Iglesias
FETSALUD-National

Mr. Humberto Murillo
FETSALUD-National

Dr. Antonio Ruiz
Residents

Panama

President Discusses ARI Board, Topical Issues

PA0503042593 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 2000 GMT 4 Mar 93

[News conference by President Guillermo Endara Galimany at the Yellow Room of the Presidential Palace, moderated by Presidential Press Secretary Rene Hernandez, with foreign and domestic correspondents—live]

[Excerpts] [Endara] [passage omitted] The second announcement I have to make is that on 4 March

Finance Minister Mario Galindo and I signed Executive Decree No. 57 of 4 March 1993.

I will read the declaration. You will later be able to read the preamble, as copies of this decree will be handed out. Article 1 states: The Board of Directors of the Interoceanic Region Authority [ARI] of the Republic of Panama will consist of the following people: Dr. Carlos Mendoza; Engineer Rafael Arosemena H.; Mr. Jose Chong Hon; Engineer Carlos Valencia; Mr. Emanuel Gonzalez Revilla; Mr. Mariano Mena; Dr. Stanley Muschett; Mr. Stanley Motta; and Architect Jorge Rodriguez M.

Article 2: This decree and the appointments included herein are hereby submitted to the Legislative Assembly for its ratification of these appointments, should it decide to do so.

Article 3: If the Legislative Assembly ratifies these appointments, a ceremony to install the board will be held at the Palace of the Herons, which will be attended by members of the ARI who are able to attend, a commission of honorable legislators appointed by the Legislative Assembly president, the president of the Republic, and other members of the Executive Branch the president deems convenient to invite. During the installation of the board and in the presence of all attendees, a drawing will be held to determine the period of each director, as established by Paragraph 1 of Article 8 of the Law No. 5 of 1993.

You will receive a copy of this decree on your way out.

[Hernandez] We now begin the questions and answers. Journalist Julio Alfaro of RPC Radio will ask the first question.

[Alfaro] Thank you very much. Good afternoon, Mr. President. I would like you to be more specific about one of the articles you referred to on the formation of the ARI Board. You said that the Assembly should now ratify these appointments. What is still unclear to me is that, if the Assembly rejects these appointments, I understand a board installation ceremony and drawing will still be held. Does this mean that the appointees cannot be changed?

[Endara] No. The Legislative Assembly can either reject the appointments or ratify them. If the Assembly ratifies these appointments, a problem must be solved. The law establishes that five of them will be appointed for a five-year term and four will be appointed for a seven-year term. I perhaps may be wrong on some details. But neither I nor the Assembly can determine who will be on the Board for five years or who will be on the Board for seven years. This is done through a drawing. We will hold this drawing in public so it will not be a private drawing done in my office. This drawing will be held in the presence of the directors of a Legislative Assembly commission and some Executive Branch representatives. This will give this drawing a public nature, similar to the National Lottery drawings.

[Alfaro] My question is will the nine people that you mentioned form the ARI Board of Directors even if they are rejected by the Legislative Assembly?

[Endara] No. These appointments are subject to ratification by the Legislative Assembly, as specified by the law. They will not become directors until they are approved by the Legislative Assembly.

[Alfaro] Thank you, Mr. President.

[Hernandez] Journalist Carlos Baser of UNIVERSAL magazine.

[Baser] Good afternoon, Mr. President. The Cabinet Council made some modifications to the Electoral Code, which was submitted to you by the Electoral Tribunal. What are these changes?

[Endara] Some modifications were made to the draft bill presented by the Electoral Tribunal. I would say that the main modification was that we eliminated from the draft bill a $10 million subsidy to the political parties. We believe that the Panamanian people will not agree with giving out to the political parties money that can and must be used for social and public works; in other words, Panamanians will oppose giving out $10 million in public funds to the political parties. We eliminated this point from the draft bill. The other modifications are really unimportant. The most important change was the elimination of the $10 million subsidy.

[Hernandez] Journalist Carmen Contreras of the newspaper LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA.

[Contreras] Good afternoon, Mr. President. Approximately two weeks ago, the Supreme Court filed a suit against the newspaper for which I work, LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA, and some of its journalists for a report that we published, which had been published four months ago by another local newspaper.

The suit, which has been termed as an act of persecution and an attack against freedom of expression, does not even contemplate charges of slander and libel but rather offenses against honor, collective security, and crimes against the state. We would like to know your opinion on this matter.

[Endara] First of all, I would like to state my respect for the independence of state branches, but I would like to say that any citizen, including the members of the Supreme Court of Justice, I, and you, can file suit for alleged offenses at the Attorney General's Office. I am not aware of the documents presented by the Supreme Court to the Attorney General's Office, but I understand that the Court asked the Attorney General's Office to investigate a newspaper report that was considered offensive. I do not view this at face value as an act of political persecution.

They could have done the same thing with the newspaper that published this report four months ago. But this is a citizens' right that cannot be denied. We must not forget

that the Supreme Court magistrates are Panamanian citizens and have the right to file claims with the Attorney General's Office. I do not believe that this should be interpreted as an act of persecution.

[Contreras] Mr. President, in this case, the person affected, Supreme Court President Carlos Lucas Lopez, should have filed the suit but the suit was filed by the nine Supreme Court magistrates.

[Endara] This has also happened in other cases. I know of specific cases in which the Supreme Court, as an act of solidarity with one of its members, acts collectively. I think this is one of their privileges as citizens. I can join a citizen in filing a suit, but this does not have impact on the suit. They, as citizens, have every right to file a suit at the Attorney General's Office. I insist that I do not believe that this represents an act of political persecution. Thank you.

[Hernandez] Journalist Javier Ortega of LA EXITOSA.

[Ortega] Good afternoon. Mr. President, public opinion is concerned over the fact that in your 1 March address you did not refer to the Amensty Draft Bill. National and international media reported the meeting you had with Panamanian exiles in Ecuador, whom you aided financially. It appears, if we are not mistaken, that you approved the return of exiles to the country. Why did you not speak about the political prisoners in Panamanian jails in your 1 March address?

In addition, recently Comptroller General Carles, in a speech delivered to U.S. Southern Command officers, spoke about two important issues. He said that someone must dare to negotiate the military bases, in reference to the Panama Canal Treaties, so that U.S. troops can stay in Panama after 2000. He also spoke about calling for a Constituent Assembly before the 1994 elections. Does this statement by the comptroller general mean that some want to delay the 1994 elections?

[Endara] I will answer your two questions. On the Amnesty Draft Bill, I did not refer to that bill during my 1 March speech, because, as you recall, I only referred to draft bills that the Executive Branch had requested or was going to request.

The Amnesty Draft Bill was not presented by the Executive Branch. This bill was presented by a legislator. During my speech, I only referred to the bills that the Executive Branch had submitted or was going to present. That is the reason why I did not mention the Amnesty Draft Bill.

Regarding the meeting with exiles living in Ecuador, it is not important. I only wanted to see my fellow countrymen. They are going through a difficult situation, one through which I also went. I would not like anyone to experience that situation. I wished to make a gesture of solidarity and friendship toward them. I told them that, on the part of the Executive Branch, there was not a single reason preventing them from returning to Panama.

As opposed to the past, however, true independence of the state branches now exists in Panama. This is the basis of democracy. I told them that I could not interfere in their cases with the Judiciary Branch. During the previous administration, the dictator could have said, come back to the country. Nothing will happen to you as I guarantee you that the judiciary will do nothing to you. I cannot do that. I cannot guarantee the gentlemen who were in Guayaquil that they could return to the country and that nothing would happen to them. I do not know about their judicial problems.

With regard to your second question, the comptroller general is an individual with his own opinions. He has the right to say what he thinks and I respect his opinion. Regrettably, many times we do not agree on some issues. Fortunately, these differences of opinion do not affect the friendship and mutual respect we have for each other. I do not agree with the idea of renegotiating the bases. During my administration, neither modifications to the Panama Canal Treaty nor the extension of military bases beyond the year 2000 will be negotiated. The comptroller general has a different viewpoint and has said so on television. But I direct the country's foreign policy, not him.

Regarding the Constituent Assembly, I have also said on many occasions that it is not contemplated in the law and I, as a law abiding person, will not call for a Constituent Assembly. The comptroller general has the right to express his opinion. I respect his views but we differ on some things. These opposing views do not affect our friendship, affection, and respect for each other. [passage omitted]

[Hernandez] Mayte Zachrisson of Omega Stereo.

[Zachrisson] Good afternoon, Mr. President. Weeks ago the Executive Branch said it was going to hold meetings with Catholic Church officials to discuss corruption. What was the outcome of these meetings?

[Endara] As you all know, we held meetings with church officials and said we would meet again, if there was a need it, through my ministers. As we are in the Lenten period, we have not been able to communicate with church officials to discuss this issue. The fact of the matter is that there has been no need for that meeting. We did agree to meet later but did not establish any dates.

[Zachrisson] Did the Catholic Church provide you with a list of corrupt officials?

[Endara] No, they did not provide a list of corrupt officials. As you know, they said they would not provide a list of corrupt officials.

[Zachrisson] Thank you, Mr. President. [passage omitted]

[Hernandez] Aneris Thompson of Radio C[illegible]a Fenu.

[Thompson] Good afternoon, Mr. President. Dr. Ricardo Arias Calderon is now saying that the National Institute of Telecommunications [Intel] cannot be privatized, because it would create social problems. This goes against the ideology of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC]. When Mr. Arias Calderon was a member of the government, did he voice this concern to you, or is this a political maneuver by the PDC?

[Endara] I could take advantage of this opportunity to say that this is yet another political maneuver by the PDC, but I must be honest. When Dr. Arias Calderon was a member of the government, he never agreed with privatizing Intel. On his part, there is no contradiction on this.

Perhaps Arias Calderon's opposition to the Intel sale was not as vocal as it is now, but this is logical because he is now in the opposition. For the sake of truth, I must recognize that he was never in favor of privatizing Intel.

[Thompson] Thank you, Mr. President.

[Hernandez] Journalist Gisela Vergara of "Four in the News" newscast.

[Vergara] Good afternoon, Mr. President.

[Endara] Good afternoon.

[Vergara] The [words indistinct] regarding the temporary employment plan sponsored by the Social Emergency Fund in Colon Province is that it will affect 2,100 people, who will lose their jobs. Movement of the Colon Province unemployed leaders are concerned; what is your response as president? Also, will Joaquin Fernando Franco be able to return to his post, following the accident he suffered, or will another person be appointed?

[Endara] The temporary jobs, and I stress the word temporary, are a solution provided by the Presidential Advisory Commission on Colon, which is managing and telling me how to handle the funds that come from what is known as the transit tax, a name that comes from the origin of this tax.

That was a temporary solution. As you recall, that plan ended on 31 December. I called several meetings of the advisory commission to ask them to extend the program until March. Why? Because in March or April at the latest we are planning to start giving scholarships for training programs. We think those people who are participating in the temporary job program or people under similar conditions—since they do not have to be the same although I wish they were—will get scholarships lasting from six months to one year. During that time, they will be taught a skill.

According to statistics, the vast majority of the province's unemployed lack certain training or skills. We plan to train them so they can find employment. Jobs are available in Colon but, unfortunately, according to the statistics, the unemployed lack skills. Often companies must hire people from Panama to work in Colon. You know a large of number of people who work in Colon live in Panama. The idea is for Colon people to work there, and we want to train them so they can do that. That is our idea. That is the solution we came up. The temporary job program cannot last long.

[Vergara] How about the governor?

[Endara] Oh, yes, I forgot about the governor. According to Joaquin Franco's son, the first thing the governor said after or before undergoing surgery, I cannot tell which, was: I am going to return to Colon. There in the hospital, where he is, Joaquin Fernando Franco is thinking of Colon. Former governor, Mrs. Isaura Rosas... [pauses] she was Governor Francos' executive secretary. In fact, she was serving as deputy governor. She is now acting governor because of Governor Franco's health problems. I think Franco will not be able to move for a few weeks because of his injuries. Colon, the president, will lose a valuable helper during that time. I harbor the hope, and I am sure he does, too, that he will return to Colon. I think the work he began was very good and welcomed by the people of Colon, at least those I know. I want to see him complete the great work he was going to do.

[Hernandez] Colleagues, we have five minutes left. I insist that you ask only one question. Leonel Blaisdell of Radio Libre.

[Blaisdell] Good afternoon, Mr. President.

[Endara] Good afternoon.

[Blaisdell] This week, Arnulfist Party [PA] President Mireya Moscoso de Gruber commented on the possibility of a political alliance for the 1994 elections between the PDC and her party. Legislative Assembly President Lucas Zarak said he supported that possibility. Do you agree with those points of view? Would you, as the PA political leader, invite the PDC to form an alliance in 1994? The other question is....

[Hernandez, interrupting] We have little time.

[Blaisdell] I will be brief. I rarely come here, my dear Professor Rene Hernandez. There are comments on a possible reshuffling of the mayors, chiefly those who are active in political parties that are undergoing the registration process. Similar reports are circulating regarding certain government officials, such as Immigration Department Chief Antonio Dominguez, who is reportedly going to be named ambassador to Israel.

[Endara] [laughs] You have bad sources. [laughs] I will begin with the last question. I am not planning to change the immigration chief. I think Dominguez, whom I named my unauthorized spokesman, [laughs] will remain in his post. I think he is doing a good job. I was not aware he wanted to go to the Israeli Embassy. He is of Arab origin. I do not think he would be welcomed by the Israelis [laughs], although it seems to me he is

welcomed everywhere. I do not plan to replace any mayors, except for certain adjustments. Certain mayors in the interior of the country are going to be replaced for routine reasons that are in no way related to politics.

As for the first question, which is more basic, I must explain I am not the PA political leader. I resigned from that post, and you will recall I resigned here in front of you before the PA convention was held because I announced then I wanted to be able to preside over a country engaged in a mayor political campaign. From this moment, I want to remove myself from electoral political activities. I will continue as an Arnulfist for as long as I am president, and I will continue to be an Arnulfist after my term is up, because one never retires from being an Arnulfist. Proof of that is that Dr. Arias was active in politics until the day he died. We are continuing that tradition. I think we will continue being.... [pause] It is not that I believe but rather that I am certain I will continue to be an Arnulfist until my last day. I will not become involved in politics. I will not have anything to do with the alliances that may take place. I will be totally on the sidelines of those movements. I do not believe in the political abyss. [passage omitted]

[Hernandez] Vilma Figueroa from LA PRENSA.

[Figueroa] Good afternoon, Mr. President.

[Endara] Good afternoon.

[Figueroa] When are you going to officially submit to the Legislative Branch the names of the members of the ARI Board of Directors? How long will the Legislative Assembly have to ratify them and what will happen if one of the members is rejected?

[Endara] I plan to submit the names as soon as possible. The Presidency minister has a mission to carry out and it is to ask each one of these gentlemen to give us their birth certificates, police record certificates from the National Department of Investigations [DENI], and I do not remember what other certificate.

[Hernandez] It is the Judicial Technical Police [PTJ].

[Endara] Did I say DENI? No, I meant the PTJ. The tongue betrays me, pardon me. I meant PTJ. Erase that part from your tape recorders. [laughs] These things happen sometimes. What can we do?

The certificates must be taken to the Legislative Assembly. I believe these documents can be obtained. Presidency Minister Julio Harris is very good with those things and has a lot of experience. I believe the documents may be submitted soon. We should have a well formed Board of Directors within the next two months because the law will go into effect two months after its enactment. The law was enacted on 1 March so, March, April; it will go in effect on 1 May, approximately. We should have the Board of Directors by then. If the Legislative Branch objects to one of the members or to all of them, we would have to appoint other people. I am optimistic. I believe this list will be ratified. I have the impression it will be ratified because this is a group of very serious people, who have no....[pauses] I do not believe there will be any apprehension. As someone said, they are not extraterrestrials.

[Figueroa] Thank you, Mr. President.

[Endara] You are welcome. [passage omitted]

[Station Announcer Homero Londono] The president announced the names of the members of the ARI Board of Directors. They are: Carlos A. Mendoza, who I believe is one of the principal members of EL PANAMA AMERICA Board of Directors; Rafael Arosemena H.; Jose Chong Hon, who was one of the persons involved in the Air Panama privatization study; Economist Carlos Valencia; Manuel Gonzalez Revilla; Mariano Mena, leader of the General Central Organization of Workers of the Republic of Panama; Stanley Muschett, who is the rector at Santa Maria La Antigua University; Stanley Motta; and Architect Jorge Rodriguez M. [passage omitted]

Cabinet Council Approves Electoral Code Modifications

PA0303184493 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 3 Mar 93 p 1A

[Report by Ibeth Vega G.]

[Excerpts] The cabinet council has approved a bill containing new modifications to the Electoral Code that will be implemented in the 1994 elections.

A high-ranking government source said the cabinet council made very few modifications to the original document presented by the Electoral Council.

According to the source, the cabinet council approved the use of a single ballot in the elections and added that mayors will be chosen in an election.

Presidency Minister Julio Harris will soon present the bill to the Legislative Assembly so it can immediately be submitted to a debate. [passage omitted]

Electoral Tribunal Magistrate Guillermo Marquez said the Electoral Code modifications presented in the original document emphasize electoral violations and increase the penalties for those violations.

"The document also includes a $10-million state subsidy for political parties so they can hold conventions. That way the party with the most money will not prevail," the magistrate said.

PDC Communique Favors Representational System

PA0303225193 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 3 Mar 93 p B15

[Communique issued by the Christian Democratic Party, PDC, National Directorate in Panama City on 1 March]

[Text] 1. Since the nation was created, the Panamanian community has always been interested in struggling together to resolve problems. The system that involves corregimiento representatives, aldermen, and communal and local boards is a democratic way of directly resolving the basic needs and aspirations of the people.

2. One of the goals of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] is to encourage all the communities to take part in national development to secure the participative democracy the party advocates. Since its foundation in 1960, the PDC's statutes and principles harbor the aspirations of a community society.

3. Corregimiento representatives, as axes of community boards, are expected to act as the official community spokesmen in their relations with government authorities. They must propose solutions to the problems that directly and negatively affect community development, thus promoting the people's participation in search for solutions to their problems.

4. The PDC concedes much importance to the corregimiento representatives, aldermen, and communal and local board delegates. We believe that excessive criticism against that system is unwarranted. This criticism is based on the negative image created by the behavior of some corregimiento representatives or aldermen, without considering the good work of others.

5. Corregimiento representatives and aldermen working with communal and local boards as a team promote development programs based on community interests. Therefore, they are the most suitable tool national development programs use to resolve local needs.

6. It must be cautioned that the coupist military people of 1968 used this system to control politically the communities and to institutionalize a de facto government. Because of this, many corregimiento representatives became small feudal lords, which produced an adulterated system. This past history, however, is no reason for eliminating the corregimiento representatives system, as some are suggesting. On the contrary, an objective analysis of this structure must be made to determine what reforms should be made to improve the system.

7. The PDC states its support of the system of corregimiento representatives, aldermen, and communal and local boards because it corresponds to community principles and because it constitutes one of the basis of the participative democracy we advocate.

[Signed] PDC National Directorate

[Issued] Panama, 1 March 1993

Ruling Allows Investigation of Bank Accounts

PA0303212493 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 3 Mar 93 p 54

[Report by Yali Enrique Pitti]

[Text] Obstacles to investigating numbered bank accounts belonging to civilians and military personnel involved in crimes against state property have been overcome by a Supreme Court ruling that allows the Comptroller General's Office to continue to step up its investigation of the millionaire bank accounts opened in the names of former officials of the previous regime.

Eduardo Lombana, magistrate of the Directorate for the Recovery of State Property [DRP], supplied that information to EL SIGLO and added that the ruling only means that accounts belonging to people involved in crimes against state property will be investigated, not private accounts.

"This is something the community must have very clear in its mind: Everyone's account will not be investigated because the Supreme Court decided in a previous ruling that an open investigation of all numbered accounts was not allowed, only of those accounts that we have sufficient reason to believe were fed by state funds," Lombana said.

Lombana announced that the DRP recently uncovered a 1.456 million balboa account at a local bank. The account belonged to a former Panama Defense Forces official who was unable to account for the funds.

Lombana also reported that some banking institutions that for various reasons had refused to supply numbered account information to the Comptroller General's Office have begun to pay their fines and have shown great interest in cooperating with the DRP and Comptroller General's Office investigations.

EL SIGLO has learned that with the path now open for the Comptroller General's Office to continue its investigation of the millionaire numbered accounts, about 30 bank accounts could be closely scrutinized over the next few days because their owners have been unable to account for the source of the enormous sums of money.

Journalists Accuse Government of Persecution

PA0403220093 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 4 Mar 93 p 1

["Communique to the Citizenry" issued by the National Journalists Association, Conape, in Panama City on 3 March]

[Text] The National Journalists Association (Conape), in view of the sustained and obvious persecution of reporters and the media as evidenced by the cases of Carmen Elida Contreras (LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA

staff member and member of the Conape board of directors), James Aparicio (LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA staff member and Conape member), Manuel Alvarez Cedeno (LA PRENSA staff member and CONAPE admissions board member), and by a large number of suits and charges of aggression that demonstrate veiled or overt persecution by the president, his ministers, the Supreme Court of Justice, and even municipal officials, who through their government positions have attempted to undermine the sacred right to inform and be informed that is consecrated in the country's Constitution. [sentence as published]

We vigorously reject the attacks, acts of aggression, threats, and all actions that are designed to muzzle the country's press, particularly Conape members.

Consequently, CONAPE will take every action both locally and internationally to denounce every attempt to intimidate and silence reporters and the media.

Conape calls on all reporters and press organizations in the country to join efforts in light of the current campaign and the prospect that, in the framework of a political future of upcoming elections in 1994, partisan interests could lead to action against the free exercise of an independent press.

Issued in Panama City on 3 March 1993
[signed] Barbara Bloise, president
copies: local and foreign media

Ex-PTJ Detective Accuses Abad of Ordering Attack

PA0303190093 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 3 Mar 93 p 1

[Report by Orlando Mendieta C.]

[Text] Juan Delgado, a former Judicial Technical Police (PTJ) detective, said PTJ Director Jaime Abad ordered him to fire a rocket at the home of Supreme Court of Justice President Carlos Lucas Lopez in 1992.

In a sworn statement issued on 10 February 1993 at the Third Prosecutor's Office, Delgado named Abad as the person who ordered him in September 1992 to attack Magistrate Lopez' home in connection with a case opened in the courts.

According to Delgado, he was told to go to Lopez' home in the Los Angeles area in front of former Colonel Fernando Quezada's home and that he would be provided with a rocket launcher from the PTJ armory. The rocket launcher had been seized during a search of former Col. Rodolfo Castrellon's home.

Delgado, who is under arrest at Modelo Prison, said Abad also ordered him to undertake espionage activities at the homes of Gerardo Gonzalez, a Democratic Revolutionary Party legislator, and Ramon Lima, former deputy government and justice minister

He explained that at Gonzalez' home they were looking for evidence related to the attack on a U.S. soldier. In Lima's home, they wanted to gather information about supposed subversive activities by the Christian Democratic Party.

Delgado's accusations also involve Abad's chief and assistant bodyguards, detectives Pablo Puga and Guillermo Cook. Delgado claims those two men beat him.

PTJ Director Jaime Abad denied Delgado's reports and scoffed at the former detective, saying he was discharged for the armed robbery of a store that resulted in one person being wounded.

"I have never ordered, neither orally nor in writing, any torture, much less an attempt on the life a Supreme Court of Justice magistrate," Abad said when answering a question by EL PANAMA AMERICA.

Deputy Foreign Minister on Wittgreen, Peru

PA0303220693 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 3 Mar 93 p 5-A

[Article by Orlando Mendieta]

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Raul Mulino has denied the extradition process against Carlos Wittgreen [deposed General Noriega's business adviser] will be used by the Panamanian and Peruvian Governments to improve their diplomatic relations. Diplomatic relations between Panama and Peru were discontinued in September 1992.

Mulino's statements are in response to charges made by Daisy Sanchez, Wittgreen's attorney in Panama, who said political blackmail is being used to obtain Wittgreen's extradition.

Mulino stressed "Wittgreen's extradition is not part of a deal to resume relations with Peru." He added this matter is being handled strictly by the courts.

Mulino also stated Panamanian participation in this process will be limited to following the hearings and waiting for the Peruvian Supreme Court of Justice to hand down its ruling.

When asked about the past failures of the Panamanian Government to obtain the extradition of other asylum seekers, Mulino replied that once the Foreign Ministry presents a request for extradition, the matter falls under the jurisdiction of the accepting country's courts, which cannot be pressured.

Mulino said Panama cannot interfere in these matters or request a ruling that would be favorable to the interests of our nation.

Argentina

Southern Front Opposes PTP-MODIN Negotiations

PY0403220193 Buenos Aires PAGINA/12 in Spanish 24 Feb 93 p 10

[Article by Raul Kollmann]

[Text] Pino Solanas, a representative from the Work and People Party (PTP), a Maoist organization within the Southern Front [Frente Sur] (FS), has said: "There is a strategic alliance between the left and nationalist military officers." Thus, the former pro-Chinese [as published] justified the talks initiated with [Movement for Dignity and Independence, Modin, leader] Aldo Rico's followers to form an alliance in the federal capital, a step that has angered the rest of the FS forces. The PTP might be excluded this week from the alliance headed by Pino Solanas.

During the latest FS meeting, Eduardo Jozami, a close confidant of Solanas, raised the subject of incompatibility: "He that is for us cannot be for Rico." Jozami thus hinted at the PTP leaders who have been holding talks for two weeks with the Modin to form an alliance in the federal capital. An alarm sounded among FS leaders in January following a toast organized by the PTP at the El Molino Tea Shop to mark the PTP's 25th anniversary. On that occasion, former Captain Martin Sanchez Zinny, Aldo Rico's close aide, was present as a guest.

Within the FS, representatives from the Communist Party and the People's Encounter [Encuentro Popular], which is headed by Luis Brunati, agree with Jozami in rejecting the PTP negotiations with Modin. The Maoists explained: "We are not talking with them to form an alliance, we are simply maintaining political relations."

The FS members contended: "In other words, you are talking with torturers."

The point raised by the Maoists was: "[Modin leader Ernesto] Barreiro and [Modin leader Endrique] Venturino, who broke with the Modin in the federal capital, were the torturers, not Rico and the others around him."

The discussion subsequently followed an ideological course because the PTP and the National Left Party [PIN], which is headed by Jorge Enea Spilimbergo, stressed that "convergence with the nationalist sectors of the Armed Forces is necessary." The PTP and the PIN thus hinted at the Venezuelan case in which most of the left supported Hugo Chavez and the self-styled "Bolivarian military officers" who headed two coups against President Carlos Andres Perez.

Finalizing the controversy, the so-called Southern Proposal [Propuesta Sur] (Solanas-Jozami), the Communist Party, and the People's Encounter decided to draw up a document, clearly establishing that the FS "was founded to confront the Menemist system and the feigned opposition represented by the Radical Civic Union and Rico." Signing this document virtually represents a sine qua non condition to remain within the alliance headed by Solanas.

'Confusing' Situation Among 'Painted Faces' Viewed

PY0403192593 Buenos Aires PAGINA/12 in Spanish 19 Feb 93 p 8

[Article by Maria O'Donnell]

[Text] Besides stimulating the traditional parties, the beginning of this electoral year has given new vigor to the internal situation of the Painted Faces Movement because, while Aldo Rico was negotiating with the Maoists of the Work and People Party (PTP) in the capital, his former close confidants Enrique Venturino and Ernesto Barreiro yesterday announced their alliance with the Constitutional Nationalist Party (PNC) of Alberto Asseff, a close friend of Mohamed Ali Seineldin, formerly a competitor of Aldo Rico's followers within the Painted Faces Movement.

Venturino and Barreiro supported Aldo Rico in the 1987 Holy Week uprising and were founders of the Modin [Movement for Independence and Dignity] in 1990. The monolithic group of "close confidants," which was formed around Rico during the military uprisings, was broken up a little after the Painted Faces leader jumped into the political arena. Venturino was candidate for senator for Modin in the capital in the 1992 elections. After the vote count, Rico expelled Venturino and Barreiro from the party board.

With the help of Rufino Billordo, chairman of the Buenos Aires Modin, the two expelled leaders managed to obtain the party name from the Painted Faces leader for use in the capital district at the end of last year. While followers of Aldo Rico were trying to settle their internal dispute, Asseff suggested to Seineldin that he should run as presidential candidate for the PNC in 1995. Asseff was enthusiastic about the foundation of the Movement for Ibero-American Integration and National Identity (MINEII) [Movimiento de Identidad Nacional e Integracion Iberoamericana]—Seineldin's civilian movement created in October last year as a political organization but with no electoral aspirations, according to its founders.

Asseff later told PAGINA/12 that his objective was to unite "volunteers of national thinking" behind Seineldin, even though the Painted Faces leader is being held at the Magdalena prison, sentenced to life imprisonment for the bloody uprising of 3 December 1990. Asseff spoke with first lady Zulema Yoma, seeking to "unite aspirations," but both she and Seineldin rejected the offer of heading a list of PNC candidates.

However, the idea "to unite national thinking" sought to finally reach an agreement between the PNC and Modin in the capital. The new alliance is called Modin Confederation and yesterday it was announced during a news conference at the Bauen Hotel. The whole thing is

confusing: While Rico campaigns for Modin, his former close confidants now campaign for Modin Confederation, although they are two different organizations. This battle will surely be taken to the electoral courts.

Announcing the new agreement, Venturino, Barreiro, Billordo, and Asseff appealed for the same formula used by Rico's Modin followers and by Seineldin's MINEII followers: They called for unity among "men and women of national thinking." It was tremendously difficult for them to explain their differences with the other two groups. Instead of criticizing Rico, Barreiro said that "through this new situation we are able to find a new framework of agreements."

Asseff was asked whether the offer of presidential candidacy to Seineldin was still valid. He cautiously answered: "We will have to study the progress made" with the new allies, adding ambiguously: "Those in a bad situation must be helped through that difficult moment of their life." The offer to Seineldin was for 1995, and Modin Confederation members must decide now about the candidacies for the next legislative elections. For the time being, Asseff is heading the list in Buenos Aires Province and Venturino heads the list in the capital.

Tucuman Based 19th Infantry Regiment Disbanded

PY0403181093 San Miguel de Tucuman LA GACETA in Spanish 15 Feb 93 p 1

[Excerpt] The 19th Infantry Regiment on 15 February will bid farewell to Tucuman. Armored Brigade Commander General Rafael Alberto Cazaux will review the troops at the Plaza de Armas at 1915.

The regiment came to Tucuman 79 years ago, and will be disbanded as part of the Army reorganization program. The troops will be transferred to the 15th Infantry Regiment based in La Rioja. [passage omitted]

* Possible Constitutional Reform Discussed

93SM0134A Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 13 Jan 93 pp 2-3

[Text] On the basis of the most recent census the administration is pushing to boost the number of national deputies by 23, with 11 of them from the Province of Buenos Aires. The ruling party thus hopes to improve its chances of achieving the two-thirds majority in Congress that it needs to enact a constitutional reform that will allow for the re-election of the president.

President Carlos Menem announced yesterday that "work is being done" on a bill to increase the number of national deputies, hinting that based on the most recent national census the current Electoral Law could be amended to bring in "some 20" additional representatives.

Strictly speaking, this is not a bill but a strategy with an eye toward the next election. The administration must decide whether it will alter the current formula for calculating the number of lawmakers in each district in accordance with its population.

The administration's goal is the two-thirds majority that it needs to declare a constitutional reform necessary, thus paving the way for the presidential re-election.

When it comes to the numbers, specialists know that in keeping with the population increase reflected in the most recent national census, 23 more deputies than at present would be brought in if the current basis for calculation is used. In other words, the lower house would have 280 instead of 257 lawmakers.

Another fact of interest to the administration is that most of the potential new deputies would be from the Province of Buenos Aires, the district in which the ruling party hopes to have its biggest margin of victory. Indeed, Governor Eduardo Duhalde promised the president that Peronism would win the province with more than 50 percent of the vote.

According to the count done by Minister Gustavo Beliz' men, Buenos Aires would get 11 new deputies, Cordoba two, Mendoza two, and Tucuman, Santa Fe, Corrientes, Chaco, Formosa, Misiones, Rio Negro, and Salta one each.

Menem and his advisers realize that in order to call a constitutional convention (to repeal the clause preventing a president from serving two successive terms) the ruling party needs to do much better than its excellent results in 1989 when Menem won the presidency with 48 percent of the vote nationwide. This year, however, there could be appreciably less polarization, as only national deputies and provincial lawmakers are being elected, not the president, governors, or mayors. Half of the Chamber of Deputies will be up for election (128 legislators), and the terms of 53 of the 117 lawmakers that the ruling party now has will be expiring.

The issue, then, is how to improve the chances of achieving a two-thirds majority. And in this regard the debate that is brewing in certain offices in the Interior Ministry is nothing new. There had been a stir back in mid-1991 over the election blueprint, designed by Julio Mera Figueroa, that put an end to staggered elections, and debate has continued under Jose Luis Manzano and Adelina Dalesio de Viola, his assistant in these matters.

Back then the eagerness for reelection also led to plans for a change in the electoral system, as the current proportional representation was to be replaced by the single-member system.

An expert on the issue who has advised the Interior Ministry during the terms of recent ministers remarked to CLARIN that "nothing has been firmed up yet, but it is very likely that the method of interpreting" (the Electoral Law) will be used to reconcile the letter of the law with electoral strategy.

"The fact is that at this point it ceases to be a technical problem and becomes a political decision," the official admitted.

Under Article 37 of the Constitution, the basis for calculating the number of representatives must be determined before each election in accordance with the official data from the most recent national census. Any changes should be included in the bill calling this year's elections.

If this ratio were not changed periodically, the number of legislators would constantly increase, and in a few years they would overflow the Congress building.

As of today, each deputy represents 161,000 inhabitants or a fraction thereof, not less than half. This ratio went into effect when there were less than 28 million Argentines. According to the 1990 census, there are almost 33 million native (and naturalized) Argentine citizens.

As with almost all vital legislative issues, there are at least two interpretations.

The administration contends that the base number (in other words, one deputy for every 161,000 inhabitants) should remain fixed, thus boosting the number of deputies in direct proportion to the increase in population.

"The Constitution merely indicates that the basis for calculation cannot decline but can be kept fixed or can increase," a high-level Interior Ministry source who has been pondering the matter in recent days argued to CLARIN.

The opposition, in contrast, feels exactly the opposite. In a press release from the Capital Committee of the UCR [Radical Civic Union] yesterday, they described the president's remarks as "another trial balloon that the administration has sent up in its search for a magic formula to find a way of reforming the Constitution and reelecting the president."

The Radicals, like Jorge Vanossi, say that the representation of each province in Congress ought to be revised to assure greater fairness (because the smaller provinces are over-represented) but that the total number of deputies should not be changed.

"The Chamber of Deputies is a photograph of population distribution," an administration source remarked yesterday in defending the official position, which among other things contends, and the Radicals agree, that the Province of Buenos Aires is under-represented in comparison to other districts.

For example, the residents of Buenos Aires have 70 national deputies (one per 180,000), whereas Santa Cruz has five deputies (one per 32,000). Other examples corroborating the underrepresentation of Buenos Aires are Santa Fe (one deputy per 146,000) and La Rioja (one deputy for each 44,000 residents).

* Views on Decentralizing Collective Bargaining

93SM0137E Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 18 Jan 93 pp 22-23

[Article by Ricardo Rios]

[Text] The administration has readied a draft decree that will regulate the current collective-bargaining law. The new model for wage policy provides that raises agreed upon by companies or groups of companies will not need authorization from the Labor Ministry. It does, however, uphold the principle of standardizing contracts by sector or branch of activity. The decree that ties raises to higher productivity will not be repealed. Labor leaders and employers must still agree on the regulations within the Production Council.

In a new attempt to decentralize collective bargaining to the maximum, the administration's brand new model for wage policy provides that the salary hikes that each company or group of companies grants will not need authorization from the Labor Ministry.

Although the system that the administration is working on stipulates that the parties, labor and management, may choose whatever level of bargaining they prefer. In the event of a disagreement the Labor Ministry will select the most decentralized bargaining forum.

What does this mean? It means that if a trade union, for example, proposes a single negotiation for all branches of an activity and if, in turn, the employers' groups in that sector want to discuss wages for each individual branch, the administration will rule in favor of the latter.

In addition, if some want to negotiate wages by branch and others prefer discussions company by company, the most decentralized level will prevail.

These and other guidelines are contained in a draft decree that the administration, through the ministers of economy and labor, Domingo Cavallo and Enrique Rodriguez, will soon submit to labor and management for their consideration at a meeting of the Economic Council of Production, for which a date has not yet been set.

It is certain, however, that the administration's new plan for wages will have a prominent place in the talks that the leadership of the CGT [General Confederation of Workers] will hold today at 1800 with the members of the "social cabinet" in the office of the secretary general of the presidency, Eduardo Bauza.

In any event, the decree deregulating the system of social benefits, which President Carlos Menem announced as part of the social plan without consulting the unions, was the main reason for the meeting between the administration and the CGT. The head of the CGT, Oscar Lescano, voiced doubts yesterday about whether the closed-door meeting would be held.

Almost as soon as it took office, the Peronist administration started looking for ways to decentralize collective bargaining in the country as much as possible (see box).

Current legislation authorizes wage talks company by company, and several unions are signing such agreements. The machinists union, for instance, enters into agreements with each automotive company, and something similar goes for other unions as well.

The new twist is that the Labor Ministry has been given the power to establish collective bargaining by company at the request of one of the parties. This will tend to neutralize the resistance of long-standing labor leaders to this collective-bargaining arrangement, which is commonplace in almost all European countries, in which agreements are negotiated by branch or company and are then "tied" to the industrywide master agreement.

Once the collective-bargaining bill that was before Congress was rejected, after pro-union deputies succeeded in amending an article that eliminated the automatic, open-ended extension of agreements, the administration aimed its guns at a draft decree regulating the current collective-bargaining law.

Economy Ministry officials were in charge of the first attempt, but when both the CGT and the Labor Ministry rejected the move, which also called for collective bargaining in small and medium-sized companies, it went nowhere.

After Enrique Rodriguez joined the cabinet as Rodolfo Diaz's replacement, the labor minister agreed with his colleague in the Economy Ministry to simplify matters and work together to chart the new wage policy, which will precede a future bill to modernize labor relations.

What will the main guidelines of the upcoming income policy be? According to a draft that is being circulated by the Finance and Labor ministries in bits and pieces, the following are the main points:

- To the displeasure of labor leaders, the productivity decree will not be repealed.
- Once a collective-bargaining agreement expires, the parties may change the level of negotiation "at the request of either of them." If they do not agree, the Labor Ministry will opt for the most decentralized setting.
- Wage levels may be negotiated on the basis of a fixed module and a variable module. The former will consist of conventionally contracted wages, which will be binding for the activity, branch, sector, or company for which the collective-bargaining agreement has been entered into.
- The latter will consist of a variable amount (plus additions) that will be established above the fixed module and that will be binding on the workers in each individual company. The employer and the legally representative union may change, increase, abolish, or establish it one single time, depending on the pace of economic activity of the company in which it has been entered into.
- The administration thinks that this form of bargaining will enable the basic conventional agreements that are now out of date to be made current. Since most are not reflected in actual salaries, the tax and social security systems are both adversely affected. This is a long-standing CGT aspiration.
- Agreements in one company or in a group of companies will not require standardization. They will take effect when they are recorded at the Labor Ministry. Nevertheless, the sponsors of the proposal, Cavallo and Rodriguez, feel that this will not cause wage slippages that might endanger economic stability, "because no employer will want to remain outside the market."
- Standardization is retained, however, for contracts other than by individual company, and their length will not be set either.

[Box, p 22]

From Convertibility to the Social Plan

- February 1991: The new economy minister, Domingo Cavallo, asks labor leaders to "rationalize" their requests for wage hikes.
- March 1991: The administration launches its plan for convertibility, monetary reform, and de-indexing of the economy. Indexing is banned.
- April 1991: The major trade unions (metalworkers, food industry, construction) submit their wage disagreements with employers for official arbitration.
- July 1991: Under the umbrella of the convertibility plan the administration issues the Productivity Decree (1,334), which bans indexing and sets very strict criteria for Labor Ministry approval of wage increases.
- August 1991: A mission from the International Labor Organization (ILO) arrives in the country. The administration's idea, as embodied in a new collective-bargaining law, is to introduce the system of coordinated negotiations to decentralize collective bargaining to the maximum.
- October 1991: The decree deregulating the economy is announced. It encourages wage bargaining by company and empowers the Labor Ministry to set up collective-bargaining commissions at the request of one of the parties, that is to say, management or organized labor.
- February 1992: The ILO mission returns, and the wording of the new collective-bargaining law is established, replacing the existing one.
- July 1992: The Senate passes the new collective-bargaining law. Organized labor now supports it because it thinks that passage will mean the end of the productivity decree, which regulates the current law (14,250).
- November 1992: The collective-bargaining law is finally passed by the Chamber of Deputies. The bill has to be sent back to the Senate because pro-union deputies manage to strike an article abolishing the automatic, open-ended extension of agreements.

- December 1992: The administration sits on the law in Congress. Economy Ministry officials leak a draft decree to regulate the collective-bargaining law, one that sponsors negotiation by decree and promotes collective bargaining for small and medium-sized companies.
- January 1993: The administration announces the upcoming regulation of the current collective-bargaining law.

* Unemployment, Underemployment Figures Analyzed

93SM0137C Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish
19 Jan 93 p 29

[Text] Unemployment rose 16.7 percent (from 6 to 7 percent) between October 1991 and October 1992. Around 76,000 more people joined the ranks of the jobless, who now total 535,000 in the area surveyed by INDEC [National Institute of Statistics and Census], which comprises just 19 million individuals. The rate of underemployment rose by 2.4 percent, from 7.9 to 8.1 percent. The people with job problems thus represent more than 15 percent of the work force.

Paradoxically, according to the numbers that INDEC furnished yesterday, in the 12-month period from October 1991 to October 1992 both employment and unemployment increased in the country. Employment was up by 2.1 percent, as 152,000 people found jobs. Unemployment, meanwhile, rose from 6 to 7 percent, which represents a 16.7 percent rise.

The population that INDEC surveys in 25 cities stands at some 19 million, and thus the work force numbers around 7.64 million. We can infer that almost 76,000 people joined the ranks of the unemployed. A total of some 535,000 people in the areas surveyed are in this situation. There are actually more, because many areas of the country are not included in the INDEC polls (14 million inhabitants are overlooked in the sample).

Underemployment was also up, although much less, 2.4 percent, from 7.9 to 8.1 percent.

In looking at these social indicators, we need to make a clarification: the steep downturn came between October 1991 and May 1992. During that period unemployment rose from 6 to 6.9 percent, increasing afterwards by only 0.1 percent, some 13,000 persons, until October 1992. Meanwhile, underemployment increased 0.4 percent from 7.9 to 8.3 percent from October 1991 to May 1992, dropping thereafter by 0.2 percent as of October 1992.

The remarks accompanying the official statistics emphasize the rise in the rate of employment from 39.5 to 40.2 percent of the work force, the highest level since the variable began to be measured in 1974. Nevertheless, the increase in the supply of labor was not completely absorbed by demand, and hence the rise in unemployment and underemployment.

This apparent contradiction can be explained by a number of factors. On the one hand, Argentina has low population growth, under 1.5 percent a year. On the other, the way that labor statistics are measured has an effect. The unemployed population comprises those people who are without jobs and are actively seeking work, whereas underemployment refers to those people who work less than 35 hours a week but would like to work more.

This means that the unemployment rate can be pushed higher not only if more people are jobless but also if more people who had not been seeking work do start looking but do not find jobs. This also goes for the underemployment rate.

Breakdown

In breaking down the nationwide numbers, we must bear in mind the difference between certain critical areas and the rest. For example, open unemployment in Bahia Blanca rose from 7.2 to 10.7 percent in one year, and in Comodoro Rivadavia from 10.3 to 13.9 percent. These huge increases indicate a severe employment emergency.

The outlook is not encouraging either in Santa Fe and Santo Tome, where joblessness rose from 11.2 to 12.3 percent, or in Tucuman and Tafi Viejo (11.4 to 12.5 percent), while in Jujuy unemployment doubled, rising from 3.3 to 6.6 percent, and in Salta more than doubled from 4.7 to 9.8 percent. The situation also worsened severely in the districts of the greater metropolitan area surrounding the Federal capital (the highest worker concentration in the country), as joblessness rose from 5.7 to 7.5 percent. The Federal capital also saw unemployment rise, from 4.4 to 4.8 percent, though the rate here is still the lowest in the country.

Where have trends been positive? Catamarca, La Plata, Corrientes, Posadas, and Ushuaia, but of the country's major areas of worker concentration only Rosario saw joblessness decline appreciably: from 9.4 to 8.5 percent. In Cordoba and Mendoza, two other major working-class areas, the rates were flat at 5.3 and 4.4 percent respectively.

What needs to be researched more thoroughly is the correlation between an increase in the labor force participation rate, in other words, the percentage of people with jobs, and a higher unemployment rate. For example, this is the case in Bahia Blanca, the Buenos Aires metropolitan area, and Comodoro Rivadavia. In contrast, in jurisdictions in which employment rose, the labor force participation rate declined. Ushuaia is a typical example.

We can see that in Cordoba, Rosario, and Mendoza employment rose but unemployment dropped or did not rise. But if we take the country as a whole, there is little reason for optimism, as job opportunities are declining in many major districts.

*** Menem Discusses Social Plan, Cholera, Di Tella**

93SM0137B Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 13 Jan 93 p 3

[Excerpts] President Carlos Menem took the opportunity yesterday to say that he did not think of himself as an heir to Peron, because "I just continue to regard myself as an advanced disciple." He then clarified the meaning of the term "disciple" for the newsmen who were listening to him, saying that "I have renovated Justicialist ideas and have updated them significantly."

The president set one condition for his talk yesterday with the newsmen who cover the Government Palace: The conversation was to be relaxed.

As a result, everything was spontaneous, just as he wanted, and the tape recorders and TV cameras were conspicuous by their absence.

Just as he does at every press conference in the Government Palace, Menem agreed to cover the entire range of current events:

- There will be no further changes in the cabinet. In response to the rumor that Foreign Relations Minister Guido Di Tella might leave after Bill Clinton takes office as U.S. President, Menem asked: "Why would he have to resign?" After the rhetorical question, he remarked that "in no country does the foreign minister leave every time a new U.S. president takes office."
- He reaffirmed that the Social Plan "has nothing to do with politics." He also stressed that the administration had always said that when "we have the funds, we are going to get into social issues. "
- He declined to specify the new amounts of family allowances, which will be announced next month. He also announced that the increase is going to be "significant" and that in "some cases they are going to quadruple."
- He warned that the administration is not going to take "a single step backward" in deregulating the social security system, although he did comment that the dialogue with labor leaders remains open.
- "I need the party, but I do not want it in the Government Palace, because I do not wish to mix party issues and public affairs," he remarked when asked about the possibility of changes in the top echelon of the National Justicialist Council. He added that the people in the party should handle party issues, "and I, as the president, am on a leave of absence." [passage omitted]
- After the government overseer in Corrientes, Claudia Belio, completes her mission, she will be appointed to head a new secretariat that will be established under the president and whose main purpose will be slum eradication.
- Alieto Guadagni, the Foreign Ministry's current secretary of international negotiations, has been named to replace Jose Manuel de la Sota, who resigned as ambassador to Brazil.
- He downplayed the seriousness of the cholera outbreak. Moreover, he asserted that "700 cases in a year are very few."
- He also talked about the situation in the Gulf, letting it be known that if the United Nations asks Argentina for a military contingent, "we are going to send people."

Menem will travel to Chapadmalal this afternoon.

Bolivia

Paz Zamora Promulgates Attorney General's Office Law

PY0403180593 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Report by Tania Sandoval from Government Palace]

[Excerpt] During a ceremony at the government palace, President Paz Zamora promulgated the Paz Zamora or Attorney General's Office law. This important instrument includes, among other things, the following major innovations:

The Attorney General's Office now incorporates all government, military, and mining prosecutors.

It incorporates the principle of hierarchy which recognizes the attorney general as head of the Attorney General's Office.

It creates the Prosecutor of the Supreme Court [Fiscalia de Sala Suprema], and the District Attorney [Fiscalia de Sala Superior]. Both will participate in all proceedings heard by the Supreme Court and the Superior District Courts, respectively.

The change seeks to eliminate the classic division between provincial and trial prosecutors and affords the General Attorney's Office an organic and systematic body of legal regulations that establishes its authority in the various areas of the law. [passage omitted]

Brazil

High Command Studies Troop Reductions

PY0403212993 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 2 Mar 93 Politics Section p 7

[Article by Roberto Godoy]

[Text] By the year 2003, Brazil might reduce the Army's current strength by 30 percent. This force, probably totalling 137,000 men, will necessarily be specialized, agile, and especially professional, well-equipped, and supplied with information from a sophisticated intelligence network. The new format was discussed outside

the official agenda by the High Command generals who met in Rio de Janeiro two weeks ago.

In the officers' opinion, the world's strategic realignment, caused by the abolishment of the Soviet Union, changes the possible lines of action: Without an important common enemy, regional powers must be prepared for local confrontations. In Brazil's case, this involves expanding activities in the Amazon region, airspace surveillance, patrolling the continental shelf, and engaging in drug enforcement activities.

A Southern Command general said: "We require cadres of experts for this. A violation on the northern border requires a combatant prepared for this specific environment. The same man cannot be equally efficient in case of a similar emergency in the arid Rio Grande plains." The equipment also must be modernized and adjusted. The general said: "Today we have armored vehicles that are too heavy for the tropical forests."

Argentina

In the generals' opinion, the ideal model is the one currently adopted by France and, to a certain extent, implemented by the United States. Instead of a conventional army, sluggish and bound to the "large-scale-war" doctrine, the ideal model involves a ground force able to immediately implement a maximum alert regime and promptly respond to threats.

A colonel from the planning area said: "In this regard, integration with the Air Force and the Navy is essential." The only ground troops ready for this action are the Paratroopers Brigade and the Special Forces Battalion, both of which are stationed in Rio de Janeiro. The Navy has a Naval Riflemen Corps (15,000 men).

The High Command has learned that Argentina is implementing a similar program. The 56,000-man strength of 1986 has been reduced to 45,300. The number of conscripts has been reduced 40 percent. There is a Senate bill abolishing compulsory military service. In Argentina, the military industry (which has virtually disappeared in Brazil) is ready to enter joint ventures with German groups in order to manufacture components and receive military technology in exchange.

Anticoup

A survey that circulated among the High Command generals warns of the fact that the combination of low salaries and the lack of professional encouragement through appropriate equipment and the implementation of peacekeeping missions "is admittedly explosive." In the opinion of political scientist Eliezer Rizzo de Oliveira, the founder of the Unicamp [Campinas State University] Strategic Studies Group and chief of the Unicamp Constitutional Studies Group, "the antidote for a probable coupist adventure involves the disengagement of the military from the body of public servants and the opening of discussions with society on defense policies."

Rizzo de Oliveira said: "President Itamar Franco must forestall a reinstatement of the April crisis when officers' wives took to the streets to protest low salaries." In conclusion, Rizzo de Oliveira noted: "The time has come for political leaders to take the lead, proposing investments in the Armed Forces."

* Electoral Law May Change Before Plebiscite

93SM0149B Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 27 Jan 93 p 3

[Text] Brasilia—President Itamar Franco will back the proposal for a vote on electoral and political party legislation prior to the plebiscite on the system of government. At a meeting in Planalto Palace, he was receptive to a request from PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party] leader Genebaldo Correa (Bahia), PSDB [Brazilian Social Democracy Party] leader Jose Serra (Sao Paulo), and PSB [Brazilian Socialist Party] leader Luiz Piauhylino (Pernambuco) that he hasten that vote.

"The president thought it logical that the electoral and political party rules be defined before we take to the streets to explain to the public about possible changes in the system of government," the PSB leader said.

The leaders must now hold in-depth discussions with the administration's leadership in Congress. The Chamber has passed a substitute bill drafted by Rapporteur Joao Almeida (PMDB, Bahia) that now requires action by the Senate. The main change in elections law will be the abolition of parties "for hire" [legendas de aluguel] and the strengthening of small parties whose foundations are primarily ideological. The bill also regulates the actions of party blocs within the Congress.

Today, representatives of the three fronts—Parana Senator Jose Richa (PSDB), a parliamentarist; Pernambuco Senator Marco Maciel (PFL) [Liberal Front Party], a presidentialist; and Sao Paulo Deputy Cunha Bueno (PDS) [Democratic Social Party], a monarchist—will go to Planalto Palace to ask Itamar to veto the model ballot approved by the Senate. They also want the president to veto the implementing regulations for the plebiscite and leave the decision on the model ballot to the TSE [Superior Electoral Court]. Yesterday, Itamar told the government's leader in the Senate, Pedro Simon (PMDB, Rio Grande do Sul), that he would veto the model ballot that is included in the bill containing the regulations for the plebiscite if the request came from leaders of all three—presidential, parliamentarist, and monarchist—fronts. However, the veto might not come today because the bill has not yet been sent to his desk.

* Mercosur Tariffs To Be Discussed With Firms

93SM0149C Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 29 Jan 93 p 5

[Article by Sao Paulo correspondent Christina Carvalho]

[Text] The Foreign Trade Secretariat will begin next month to discuss the common external tariff to be adopted under the Common Market of the South (Mercosur) with some of the country's economic sectors.

Foreign Trade Secretary Renato Marques does not rule out the possibility that changes will be made in Brazil's tariff reform effort owing to the commitments made to our Mercosur partners. The problem is that under Brazil's tariff reduction plan, even after the next cut that takes effect on 1 July 1993, several products will still carry import duties higher than the 20 percent ceiling agreed on within Mercosur.

Under the Brazilian program, starting on 1 July the average import duty will be 14 percent, the most common rate 20 percent, and the maximum rate 35 percent. This means the problems will be concentrated among products whose rates after 1 July will range from 20 to 35 percent. These include automobiles, consumer electronics such as VCR's and microwave ovens, and computers.

Under the commitment made to its Mercosur partners, Brazil won permission for exceptions to the 20 percent ceiling. But Marques does not think all the products that, under Brazilian rules, would carry rates above 20 percent can be included in those exceptions. Even so, the exceptions can last no longer than six years from the entry into force of the common external tariff, scheduled for 1 January 1995, before their rates must also be reduced.

The Foreign Trade Secretariat will soon start calling in the interested business sectors to discuss this problem. "Time is short," noted Marques, since the Mercosur countries are supposed to define the parameters no later than June 1993. It will also be necessary to negotiate with the Mercosur partners in order to accommodate the divergent interests of individual countries. It may happen that products that would carry a 20 percent import duty under Brazilian rules will experience further reductions because of the Mercosur agreement.

Marques was discussing this subject and the new structure of foreign trade at the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, and Tourism yesterday in Sao Paulo in meetings with representatives of the Institute for Studies on Foreign Trade Operations (ICEX) and the Sao Paulo State Federation of Industries (FIESP). The decree describing that new structure was published last Friday in the Official Gazette of the Union. The secretariat will now be composed of the Department of Trade Planning and Policy, the Technical Department of International Exchange (DTIC), and the Technical Department of Tariffs (DTT). These last two were classified as coordinating units [coordenadorias] under the previous government structure.

* Disintegration of PT Articulation Faction Seen

93SM0149A Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 31 Jan 93 p 1-12

[Article by Carlos Eduardo Alves, followed by short interviews with Federal Deputies Jose Genoin (Sao Paulo) and Vladimir Palmeira (Rio de Janeiro) by unidentified local FOLHA reporters; places and dates not given]

[Text] The present political crisis in the PT [Workers Party] coincides with the breakup of the Articulation faction led by Luis Inacio Lula da Silva that has been its guiding force ever since the party's founding. Articulation is now split by issues such as the system of government, the expulsion of [former Sao Paulo mayor Luiza] Erundina, and relations with the Itamar Franco administration.

Founded essentially by those who could not accept the policies advocated by the more sectarian groups in the party, Articulation had maintained a reasonable degree of cohesiveness until 1992.

Lula was never the faction's theoretician. He shepherded the decisionmaking process, but rarely got involved in internal conflicts. The situation went out of control with the rise of Itamar Franco. That was when the "left wing of the Articulation," which resisted any rapprochement with Itamar, was formed. Among its members are Rui Falcao (chairman of the party's Sao Paulo city executive board), Jose Luiz Fevereiro (secretary of the Rio PT), David Capistrano Filho (mayor of Santos), and Sao Paulo State Deputy Arlindo Chinaglia.

The other wing of Articulation is led by Federal Deputy Jose Dirceu (the PT's national secretary), as well as Olivio Dutra (former mayor of Porto Alegre), Jorge Bittar (a Rio city councilman), and Chico Vigilante (a deputy representing Brasilia).

A third group within Articulation, one whose exponents are Sao Paulo State Deputies Aloizio Mercadante and Luiz Gushiken, now holds views close to the positions defended by Sao Paulo [Federal] Deputies Jose Genoino and Eduardo Jorge.

The majority of the "left wing" of Articulation prefers the presidential system of government, opposes Itamar, and favors the expulsion of Erundina. On these three issues, its positions differ from that of the wing associated with Dirceu.

In internal clashes, the "left" has sided with groups that are now coalescing around Vladimir Palmeira (Rio de Janeiro), an independent who heads the party's delegation in the Chamber of Deputies. Among the parliamentarists in the party, Palmeira represents PT orthodoxy and Genoino, at the other extreme, represents the wing most clearly identified with social-democracy.

Because of this absence of political leadership the PT has now added another slogan to its language: "seeking the

new majority." It is almost a foregone conclusion that the party's next congress, scheduled for June, will bring with it a rearrangement of forces that will not ensure the survival of Articulation.

When united, Articulation controls about 45 percent of the leadership positions in the party. Another 20 percent are in the hands of the group headed by Genoino and Eduardo Jorge. The more radical splinter groups control 15 percent, and the Socialist Democracy, the Trotskyite wing that sometimes sides with Articulation, another 10 percent. The remainder of the posts are held by independents.

"Of course the crisis in Articulation adversely affects leadership of the PT," Dirceu admitted. However, he thinks it will be possible to reconstruct a majority through alliances with Genoino. Most of Articulation is aligned with Dirceu. The views of Mayors Patrus Ananias (Belo Horizonte) and Darci Accorsi (Goiania) are also closer to the positions held by the secretary general of the party.

Rui Falcao, formerly Dirceu's longtime ally within the Sao Paulo PT but now his adversary in internal clashes, said that Articulation "is in tatters." He thinks the debate on the platform that Lula will run on in the 1994 elections will determine the direction that Articulation and, by extension, the PT, will take.

Statements by Genoino

Jose Genoino says that Luiza Erundina should be allowed to stay in the PT and that the party's leadership should change its formal opposition stance to that of independence.

[FOLHA] What do you think is the best solution for the Erundina case?

[Jose Genoino] She has not violated party values, but she did go against party discipline. Expulsion is a step to be taken only in event of a mistake in values and methods, which is not the case here. She should be given a warning and be placed on leave in terms of her rights and duties in the party. Expelling her would mean opening wounds that would drain the lifeblood from the PT.

[FOLHA] What position should the PT take toward the Itamar Franco government?

[Jose Genoino] I urge complete independence, which means neither predetermined opposition nor support. But we should not participate in the Cabinet. Systematic opposition would be a mistake. We have to negotiate proposals and recognize that his is a hybrid government, a transition government, and that we have responsibilities toward this country.

[FOLHA] What is your greatest concern about the future of the PT?

[Jose Genoino] We have to decide what reforms we want to see implemented and whether we want to govern all by ourselves—or, if not, who will be our partners in an alliance. We have to combine the institutional and social battles.

Statements by Palmeira

Vladimir Palmeira thinks the future of the PT requires expulsion of Luiza Erundina and opposition to the Itamar Franco administration.

[FOLHA] What do you think is the best solution for the Erundina case?

[Vladimir Palmeira] It is a decisive episode. Either the party ousts the former mayor or it dies. The PT cannot establish a precedent here if it really wants to be a party. If it does not oust her, it might actually survive as an agglomeration, but it will never be a party. We might suffer momentarily, as happened in the case of the refusal to go to the Electoral College, but we are not demagogues.

[FOLHA] What position should the PT take toward the Itamar Franco government?

[Vladimir Palmeira] We must continue in the opposition. It makes no sense for the PT to feel responsible for governability. Itamar was elected in a race against the PT, on a liberal platform. In fact, 10 days before he was sworn in he said he was a neoliberal. We are not at all like that.

[FOLHA] What is your greatest concern about the future of the PT?

[Vladimir Palmeira] The big problem is our failure to openly intervene in movements by the masses. The PT is limiting itself to the institutional sphere, which has been sucking the vigor from the party. It is vital to support the organized movements of the masses.

* Differences Threaten Mercosur Integration

93SM0149D Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 23 Jan 93 p 25

[Text] The instability of the Brazilian economy and Argentina's foreign exchange problems are the two main obstacles to full integration of the member countries of the Common Market of the South—Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, and Paraguay—scheduled for the end of 1994. The concern is that the Mercosur countries will not have enough political and economic clout to deal with the new world scenario: the formation of economic blocs such as the European Common Market (EEC), the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), and the Uruguay Round of the GATT.

Yesterday, at the First Forum on Agriculture sponsored by the National Agriculture Society (SNA), businessmen, government officials, politicians, and experts debated the best ways for Brazil to participate in the Mercosur without losing its potential as the most important

country in the accord. While they affirmed that Mercosur is of foreign trade benefit to Brazil, they think the deadline for harmonizing the economies of the four countries is too short.

According to former Minister Marcilio Marques Moreira, short-term Brazilian and Argentine problems need to be resolved so that Mercosur can negotiate with other economic blocs. Marcilio also noted that Brazil cannot be restricted to the agreement with the Southern Cone nations, because it has a universalist approach to foreign trade. He pointed out that this country exports about 30 percent of its goods to Europe, and another 40 percent to the United States and Asia.

"Brazil must also be alert to the NAFTA negotiations. Because that is a free trade agreement, Mexico will benefit from tariff exemptions. This means it will soon become a major agricultural competitor of Brazil, especially in exports of orange juice concentrate, on which the American government levies stiff duties," the former minister said.

Marcio Jank, a University of Sao Paulo professor and manager of the Mercosur Sectoral Chamber, said the agreement may not become a reality if the four Southern Cone countries do not stabilize their economies. Foreign exchange rates and tariffs are the biggest problems.

"The Mercosur accord is in danger. If Brazil has trouble reaching an agreement with Mercosur, imagine how far it is from NAFTA," Jank said.

* Cardoso Views New Foreign Relations Strategy

93SM0149E Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 28 Jan 93 p1-10

[Article by London correspondent Leao Serva]

[Text] Minister of Foreign Affairs Fernando Henrique Cardoso said in London that the plan being readied for the restructuring of Itamaraty could entail the closing of "several embassies" if they prove not to be needed under the new strategy for Brazilian diplomacy.

According to the minister, Brazilian diplomacy should reflect the position of a country that "acts globally but is not wealthy." "We have to maximize our resources, concentrate on vital points, beef up certain embassies, and close others that are not needed." Which ones? "Several embassies in Africa," he cited as example.

The minister's speech reflects a change in tone that, if it becomes a reality, could mean a revolution at Itamaraty—which, between the Janio Quadros (1961) and Jose Sarney (1985-90) administrations, practiced a so-called "Third World diplomacy," aimed at achieving hegemony over countries of Africa and Latin America.

Cardoso described what he means by "global action": "A country that does business with continents, dialogues with the G7 (the world's seven wealthiest countries), is a member of Mercosur, has an opening to NAFTA, and strong ties with Europe and Asia."

Africa, which was a priority for the military regime (1964-85), appears on the minister's list of problems associated with this country's participation on the U.N. Security Council, on which Brazil sits for two years as one of the rotating members.

The efforts to achieve peace in Angola and Mozambique have been a constant concern for the minister during his trip to the United States and England. Brazil has "historical ties" with the Communist MPLA [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola] government that give this country a special role in the current peace negotiations.

The Brazilian minister gained the impression from his British colleague that England, like the United States, is ready to distance itself from Jonas Savimbi (leader of the armed opposition in Angola) and move closer to MPLA, which is the government.

As for Mozambique, Cardoso said that he received from U.N. President [as published] Boutrous-Boutrous Ghali assurances that the commander of the U.N. peace forces in that country will be a Brazilian general. The chief of operations of the mission in Angola will probably also be a Brazilian—the commander will be a Nigerian general.

The minister said he was impressed with the number of "hot regions" in which the U.N. has intervened or is monitoring: 22 countries at war or living under an armed peace, at an annual cost of $4 billion. "We have to maintain a consistent approach in all these very disparate cases."

As an example of that consistency, Minister Cardoso cited the case of Israel: "It is vital to require acceptance of the U.N. resolutions concerning the Palestinians. The institution must not give the impression that it has a double standard: with Israel, it negotiates; with Iraq, it drops bombs." At the same time, as regards Iraq, he said that Brazil approved the allied bombardment of Iraq on 13 January but does not support the series of attacks launched since then.

"Our policy," the foreign affairs minister said, "is that after that initial warning, we need more negotiation and fewer bombs."

Chile

Military Affairs Official Comments on Confiscated Book

PY0403194393 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 2330 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Interview with (Raul Sort), a military affairs expert, by "24 Horas" newscast anchorman Bernardo de la Maza—live]

[Text] [de la Maza] How are you, Raul? You have the book and you have read it. Our cameras are showing it. What do you think about the book, and why was it confiscated?

[(Sort)] I really have no idea why it was confiscated. I read it with great interest, and I find nothing new that has not been published in the numerous books dedicated to intelligence. I must say, however, that this is a very professional book that defends intelligence as a legitimate activity, which is not unethical. The book seeks to show to Chileans, I think, that they must not fear the intelligence services, and that the past distortions in this area must not be repeated.

[de la Maza] The Navy, however, hinted that this book reveals intelligence secrets, or at least the content of classified documents.

[(Sort)] The book does not allude to Chile or to any specific element that may reveal something. It possibly includes some codes mentioned by somebody who is not in the Navy. But it really does not reveal anything that could be used against Chilean security by a reader in another country.

[de la Maza] I assume that the annoyance was probably caused by the last chapters that mention human rights violations, torture, intimidation, and political murders.

[(Sort)] Captain Palamara has made harsh statements against torture and human rights violations. He states that intelligence activities do not harm human dignity. On the contrary, if an intelligence service will be useful to the entire country, the first thing it has to do is provide security, and in no way does it threaten citizens.

[de la Maza] Do those chapters hint at an indirect charge?

[(Sort)] One should understand that a criticism is made against the procedure of the intelligence services. Another criticism is made when it is pointed out that many officers assigned to the services are not the best, that the intelligence of the officers themselves is low, there is no civilian participation, and that a country cannot have a good intelligence service if it does not include the best experts. Consequently, it states that there should be major control and more participation by civilian employees.

[de la Maza] Cap. Palamara's good intentions are evident because he wrote the book in December before he retired, and he gave it to many Navy authorities.

[(Sort)] Palamara himself must be very surprised by the confiscation of the book. This situation must sadden him. I repeat that I do not understand why the Navy decided to take on this huge political cost of confiscating a book when, in my opinion, it contains nothing that can be described as contentious. It would be very interesting to hear the Navy explanation on this.

[de la Maza] Well, Raul, thank you and good night.

Navy Alleges Book Quotes Classified Documents

PY0403192293 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 2330 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Text] The 3d Navy Prosecutor's Office of Punta Arenas today issued a prohibition to leave the country against Humberto Antonio Palamara, a retired Navy captain and an intelligence expert.

Palamara wrote a book on intelligence entitled "Ethics and Intelligence Services," which was confiscated yesterday at a printing house in Punta Arenas by order of a Navy court. The book deals issues pertaining to counterintelligence, torture, subversion, and detention, among other things. Palamara contends that his book does not speak about any country in particular and that he wrote the book prompted by the great number of irregularities in which intelligence agents have been implicated. He said:

[Begin recording] Under no circumstances does the book refer to the Chilean Navy; it only deals in generalities. [end recording]

In Talcahuano, Admiral Jorge Martinez Bush, the Navy commander in chief, commented on the confiscation of the aforementioned book. He said:

[Begin recording] The problem lies in the fact that whenever somebody publishes a book in which phrases, ideas, or texts from classified Navy documents are quoted, that person is violating a commitment he has made to respect the confidentiality of Navy documents.

The aforementioned prosecutor's office issued a communique stating that Palamara broke his sworn oath when he was a Navy officer not to reveal confidential Navy information.

Palamara's attorney filed today a petition for an injunction before the Punta Arenas Court of Appeals.

Colombia

Plan To Bomb U.S. Embassy Unveiled

PA0403180893 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1732 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] The U.S. Embassy in Santa Fe de Bogota's downtown international area was going to be blown up by terrorists who are apparently linked to the Medellin Cartel. According to state intelligence sources, the plan was to place 130 kg of dynamite near the embassy on 7 March; the dynamite would be distributed in two tunnels apparently located in buildings near the intersection of highway 13, 37th Street, and 38th Street. A car bomb with another 30 kg of explosives was to be placed on a nearby street.

Authorities became aware of the thwarted plan when they received a rudimentary building plan on carbon

paper, which clearly outlined the areas where the explosives were to be placed. Among the documents received by the authorities were the building plans of the rebuilt Administrative Department of Security, DAS [Administrative Department of Security], headquarters, which was to be bombed on 28 February.

So far no one has been arrested, but surveillance at the U.S. embassy as well as at the DAS has been reinforced.

Pepes Group Kidnaps, Murders Alleged Escobar Lawyer

PA0503025493 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Report by Diego Alonso Sanchez]

[Excerpt] The group Persecuted by Pablo Escobar, Pepes, has been in the news today. A few minutes ago, it announced the suspension of its activities in view of Escobar's imminent surrender. The group's most recent victim was Raul Zapata Vergara, an alleged lawyer of Pablo Escobar, who was found dead on the morning of 4 March.

Zapata Vergara had been kidnapped around midnight on 4 March by a group of heavily armed men who identified themselves as members of the Administrative Department of Security, DAS, who were wearing military uniforms, bulletproof vests, and gloves. Vergara, who was taken from his apartment in El Poblado neighborhood, was told he would be taken to the DAS for interrogation.

The so-called Pepes left a note tied to Zapata's neck threatening lawyers Salomon Lozano, Willian Gonzalez, Gilberto Gomez, and another by the name of Uribe, who have been hired by members of the Medellin Cartel. The note also threatened two officials of the local Attorney General's Office. Authorities are currently investigating if this incident is linked to the kidnapping on 3 March of Adolfo Leona Bendano Arango, the brother of Tato Abendano, a Medellin Cartel member who surrendered and is currently at the maximum security jail in Itagui. [passage omitted]

Announce Recess in Operations

PA0403170693 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1602 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] On 4 March, the clandestine organization Persecuted by Pablo Escobar [Pepes] announced a recess in its operations against Pablo Escobar Gaviria. This announcement was made in view of Escobar's imminent surrender to authorities. Pepes, which has staged attacks against Escobar over the past month, sent the following communique to the Caracol radio station in Medellin:

We hereby inform the Colombian citizens, civilian authorities, and military authorities of the following:

Due to the apparent resolve to surrender to Colmbian authorities displayed by members of the Medellin Cartel and by Pablo Escobar's lieutenants, we have decided to recess our military operations to aid in fulfilling Escobar's surrender.

We are also warning that we will remain alert to their unwavering pledge to surrender, to prevent a repetition of their deceitful actions of the past. A repetition of their deceitful actions would force us to resume our military efforts.

Persecuted by Pablo Escobar, Pepes
Medellin, 4 March 1993

Security Director on Effort To Apprehend Anti-Escobar Group

PA0503000593 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Report by Marcela Duran]

[Text] Rewards will be offered for information on the members of the group Persecuted by Pablo Escobar. An advertisement will be broadcast in the next few days on the Antioquia regional television channel.

Fernando Brito, director of the Administrative Department of Security, said the same strategy used against Pablo Escobar will be implemented. Intelligence agencies and military forces have been ordered to go after them with the same intensity used against members of the Medellin Cartel.

[Begin Brito recording] Procedures must also be established to reward those who provide information leading to their arrest and those who clearly contribute to identifying them. At the same time, anyone who breaks the law should know that authorities will use all the legal means available according to the Constitution and law. [end recording]

Regarding state actions against the Cali Cartel, Brito said for the time being no reward will be offered for information leading to the arrest of its members.

[Begin Brito recording] The so-called Cali Cartel is a drug-trafficking organization that the government is not facing with the same means as the ones used to face the Medellin Cartel. The methods and procedures being used are somewhat different. Priorities must be established. The government and the authorities cannot irresponsibly face all the problems of violence at the same time and with the same means and resources. [end recording]

Brito noted, however, that several raids have been conducted during the past few weeks in Cali, which have led to the arrest of important members of that organization.

Police Deny Persecution of Escobar's Relatives

PA0403232293 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Reactions to the letter Pablo Escobar sent to the NEW YORK TIMES continue. The chief of police has denied that his organization is persecuting the relatives of the drug trafficker. General Miguel Antonio Gomez Padilla, the director of the National Police, answered Pablo Escobar's letter simply by saying the police are not persecuting Pablo Escobar's family. On the contrary, it is obliged to protect them.

[Begin Gomez recording] We protect the life, honor, and property of all those residing in Colombian territory. [end recording]

The commander said police operations are just as strong against the Pepes [Persecuted by Pablo Escobar] as they are against the Cali Cartel.

[Begin Gomez recording] Police and public force operations are directed against all those who have broken the law in Colombia. [end recording]

According to Gen. Gomez, the continuing surrender of cartel members is due to the pressure exerted by the search operations and not the Pepes.

Deny Links With Pepes

PA0503035393 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] The directors of the National Police and the Administrative Department of Security denied on 4 March there were any links between the state security forces and Pepes [Persecuted by Pablo Escobar]. They also announced a repressive campaign against the Pepes, similar to the one being conducted against the drug cartels.

[Begin recording] [DAS [Administrative Department of Security] Director Fernando Brito] Certain offers are being made through the regional television channel in Antioquia. The government has already offered rewards for information leading to their arrest. We are undoubtedly going to be working with similar criteria, not only with the Pablo Escobar organization or the Pepes, but I believe this is a policy that will be maintained to fight criminal organizations that have been hurting the country so much.

[National Police Director Miguel Gomez Padilla] In general, the military forces, the National Police, and the DAS are going after these people, who are taking justice into their own hands and violating the laws in this country. [end recording]

Police Find Arsenal Reportedly Belonging to Escobar

PA0403220393 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] The National Police dealt a new blow to drug lord Pablo Escobar Gaviria when it located a farm where sophisticated war materiel was hidden. The weapons had been brought into the country illegally. Here is a report by Diego Alonso Sanchez.

[Begin Sanchez recording] The arsenal was located during a raid executed a few hours ago of a farm that, according to the authorities, belongs to Pablo Escobar Gaviria. The farm is in Rioclaro Jurisdiction, southwest Antioquia Department. Hidden inside several drums were 22 Austrian and U.S.-made rifles, fragmentation grenades, 14 communication radios, a large quantity of ammunition, five beepers, eight ski caps, and other military supplies. The authorities said the arsenal, which was buried 90 days ago, could fully equip an entire platoon. [end recording]

Leader of Dissident Guerrilla Cell Surrenders in Caldas

PA0403222193 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] This is a last-minute report: Minutes ago an important guerrilla leader surrendered to the authorities in Caldas Department. Adelaida Villamil filed this report from Manizales:

[Begin Villamil recording] Jose Alirio Jaramillo Grisales, alias El Mocho (Ollecid), who is leader of a dissident cell of the Popular Liberation Army operating in northern Caldas, surrendered at 1800 on 3 March to the prosecutor in Supia, Caldas. A 10-million-peso reward had been offered for his capture.

Three other guerrillas, including 14-year-old Sandra Milena Canas, also surrendered. Six weapons, dynamite, and ammunition was found in their possession at the time of their surrender. [end recording]

Gaviria Appoints Agriculture, Education Ministers

PA0403233993 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Excerpt] Through Decree 414, issued just moments ago, President Gaviria appointed Jose Antonio Ocampo Gaviria, 40, an economist from Cali, as new minister of agriculture. He is a member of the Samperist wing of the Liberal Party. Until now, he was acting as an economic adviser to President Gaviria. He had worked as dean of the Economy School of the Andes University and director of the Foundation for Higher Education and Development.

The decree also appoints Maruja Pachon De Villamizar as the new minister of education. She is a former member of the Santa Fe de Bogota Town Council and

former director of the Cinema Financial Fund. She was also held captive for several months by the Medellin Cartel. The new ministers will be sworn in at a later date, which will be announced. [passage omitted]

Top Italian Mafioso Captured in Risaralda

PA0403223993 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] A man described as one of the 10 most important Italian mafiosos has been captured by the National Police in Santa Rosa de Cabal, Risaralda Department. His name is Paolo Pizano, alias El Gallo Giuseppe. According to the Police, Pizano was fleeing from Italian authorities who want him for his connections to the Cosa Nostra and the mafia in Naples. Paolo Pizano will be extradited to Italy in the next few days.

Ecuador

President Duran-Ballen Recovering From Surgery in U.S.

PA0403162393 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1200 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] On 3 March, President Sixto Duran-Ballen left the Sibley Hospital in Washington where he underwent spinal surgery nine days ago. The president is staying at Ecuadoran Ambassador Edgar Teran's residence. He will remain there for approximately one week, at which time, he will return to Quito.

On 4 March, Duran-Ballen will begin the second phase of his rehabilitation, which includes physical exercise to strengthen his muscles. The president will continue with his rest and rehabilitation program for six to eight days at the ambassador's residence. He might return to Ecuador next week to resume his presidential duties.

Paraguay

Colorado Board Proclaims Wasmosy-Seifart Ticket Winner

PY0403225893 Asuncion Cerro Cora Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 2118 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Resolution read by Eligio Vargas Mendoza, secretary of the Colorado Party Electoral Board, at party headquarters in Asuncion—live]

[Text] [Vargas Mendoza] Resolution No. 6 Asuncion, 4 March 1993.

Considering the result of the vote count made in each one of the departments where party elections were held on 27 December 1992, and considering that after adding up the votes the names of the candidates for president and vice president of the republic emerged, and that after adding up the results obtained by the different lists at the national level of candidates for senator, the D'Hondt system [of counting] must be applied.

Therefore, in the face of such operations, the independent electoral board of the National Republic Association [Colorado Party] resolves: Article 1 establishes that the final results computed for candidates for president and vice president of the Republic give the following results: List 2, 207,120 votes [applause]; List 3, 25,436 votes [applause], List 4 [the Argana-Ybanez ticket]: 203,116 votes [applause]; List 5, [numbers indistinct]

[Unidentified reporter] There is a difference of 4,000 votes in favor of List 2, the Wasmosy-Seifart ticket. Diogenes Martinez, who is the legal representative of the Luis Maria Argana ticket, now is leaving party headquarters. We will try to talk to him while the resolution's reading continues. Reporter Jose Rojas probably will interview Diogenes Martinez downstairs. The reading of the resolution continues.

[Vargas Mendoza] Article 2 [applause and chants in favor of List 2], the official candidates for president and vice president of the National Republic Association, who are Juan Carlos Wasmosy Monti and Angel Roberto Seifart Spinzi, respectively, are hereby proclaimed.

Article 3 establishes the final results given by the computations to make the national list for senators, which are as follows: List 2, 200,033 votes; List 3, 27,548 votes; List 4, 199,266 votes; List 5, 1,409 votes; blank votes, 12,197; null votes, 8,325.

Article 4 proclaims as official candidates of the National Republic Association the people who will make up the list of senators who are listed in Annex A, in accordance with the seats available and in accordance with the proportional distribution of the D'Hondt system.

Article 5, Annex A is part of this resolution.

Article 6, it is hereby ordered.

Signed by Carlos Raul Noguera Ruiz, Edgar Ruben Stanley, Juan Angel Dellavedova, Luis A. Vely, and Liza Teresa Sanchez before me, lawyer Eligio Vargas Mendoza, secretary.

Rodriguez Expresses Confidence in Party Electoral Board

PY0503020393 Asuncion Cerro Cora Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 2356 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] This afternoon President Andres Rodriguez, who was not yet aware of the resolution made by the independent Colorado Party electoral board, which proclaimed List 2 the winner of the 27 December party primaries, said the election results and the will of the people should be respected. He expressed confidence in the party electoral board.

[Begin recording] [Rodriguez] We should trust the electoral board because the resolution of an electoral board

any place in the world regarding free, transparent, and democratic elections should be respected.

[Unidentified reporter] Are you satisfied with the candidacy of Juan Carlos Wasmosy?

[Rodriguez] No, I would be satisfied if the will of the people is fulfilled because the people are the ones who elect their representatives or leaders.

[Second unidentified reporter] Do you believe the Colorado Party's crisis will be solved with the proclamation of Juan Carlos Wasmosy as the winner of the primaries?

[Rodriguez] Honestly, I cannot make a prediction. I hope so. It is my desire that whoever is the winner will lead the Colorado Party toward solidarity and harmonic coexistence among all the party members.

[First reporter] It was said that the elections were fraudulent.

[Second reporter] What about the lemas electoral system draft law submitted to Congress?

[Rodriguez] I was urged to submit that bill to Congress. It is now up to Congress to return it, not to reject it, if the congressmen think so. [end recording]

Argana Issues Statement on Electoral Court Resolution

PY0503013293 Asuncion RPC Television Network in Spanish 0004 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Communique read by Colorado Reconciliation Movement head Luis Maria Argana in response to the Colorado Party electoral court's resolution, in Asuncion—live]

[Text] Good evening my dear fellow partisans throughout the country. In view of the strange resolution that has deprived the Colorado people of their victory, the Colorado Reconciliation Movement wants to release to national, and especially to Colorado, public opinion, the following communique:

Due to the infamous and expected resolution by the ill-named party electoral court, which was illegally appointed and proclaims the victory of the losing Wasmosy-Seifart movement in the internal party elections held on 27 December 1992, the Colorado Reconciliation Movement, supported by more than 700,000 Colorado Party members, states:

1. Its categorical repudiation of this attack on the sovereign will of the Colorado people that was freely expressed in clear elections, the results of which, known and accepted by all democrats of the Republic, gave a categorical victory by more than 28,000 votes to the people's movement comprising the Argana-Ybanez ticket.

2. To hold responsible for this fraud against the Colorado people and for the nefarious consequences it will have on our party's future—this enormous political crime committed by those who hold power in the national government—the president and members of the Colorado Party Executive Board who have not resigned from their posts, the judges of this false court, and the so-called barons of Itaipu who, taking possession of money by unconstitutional overinvoicing project prices and tax evasion, are taking the Colorado Party to its ruin and a sure defeat in the 9 May elections due to the election of a losing candidate of doubtful Colorado Party membership.

3. To be ready to defend by all legal means the rights legitimately gained by the Colorado people, exercising all actions against the illegal, unconstitutional, and harmful procedures with which the essential right to defense in court has been violated by the fraudulent members of this false court, which has violated the democracy and freedom of the Colorado people in an arrogant and brutal manner. For this reason, this court, as well as its sponsors and instigators, will be recorded in history as the dirtiest deliberative rabble in the Paraguayan political annals.

4. However, in a gesture of greatness, resignation, and chivalry, our movement will not adopt any urgent precautionary or preventive measures that will prevent the registration of the ill-fated ticket in order not to leave the Colorado Party without a candidate. The Colorado people will take care of them.

5. Myself and public opinion already have judged and know who the legitimate winners of the Colorado Party internal elections are: the Argana-Ybanez ticket, and history will give its unappealable verdict against these political turncoats who, moved by vain ambitions, undescribable bitterness, lack of love for the Colorado Party, and a tremendous inferiority complex, in addition to the desperate desire to guarantee the impunity of their crimes, have corrupted civic competition in Paraguay and are taking the great and glorious Colorado Party to the abyss.

6. Fortunately, we have all the legal resources and the Pyrrhic victory of these Colorado Party traitors will be short-lived because the authentic Colorado Party members, the true heirs of General Bernardino Caballero [founder of the Colorado Party], the glorious fighters of the revolution, the suffering peasants, men, women, and children, will fight more than ever to revindicate the rights of the people that were despicably trampled by those who in their delirium think politics can be conducted against truth, against the people's will, against ethics, and without perceiving, perhaps, that politics conceived in this manner turn those who act in this manner into a gang of outlaws.

Viva the Colorado Reconciliation Movement.

Viva the Colorado people.

Viva the great Colorado Party. [applause]

Discusses Electoral Court Resolution

PY0503021893 Asuncion RPC Television Network in Spanish 0032 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Interview with Colorado Reconciliation Movement candidate Luis Maria Argana at a RPC Television Station studio in Asuncion—live]

[Text] [Argana] I feel very well. Of course this was something expected. Obviously, the attack on the Colorado Party Executive Board headquarters on 2 January, the more than 2,000 police personnel surrounding it, and the bunker the party headquarters was transformed into these past five days—when you were able to see lines and lines of soldiers who were there shoulder to shoulder and with machine guns or other weapons in their hands—were a preliminary announcement that we were going to be robbed.

[Unidentified reporter] Do you mean that you had expected this?

[Argana] Yes, of course. No doubt about it.

[Reporter] Sir, why did you say that the great loser in these elections is [Juan Carlos] Wasmosy?

[Argana] Well, you asked me whether Wasmosy was going to win the 9 May elections or not. I said Wasmosy will be the great loser because according to current polls and statistics, Wasmosy has no more than 7 percent of the votes. And according to our calculations, Wasmosy obtained only 30,000 valid votes.

[Reporter] Do you think this is the beginning of the fall of the Colorado Party?

[Argana] No, I wouldn't say that. We are here to save the Colorado Party. But it is the beginning of the fall of a disloyal and dishonest clique that has accrued wealth for 30 years, creating a false empire with all possible benefits.

[Reporter] Are you thinking of taking some judicial actions...

[Argana, interrupting] We are going to adopt a number of judicial measures that are under consideration by our legal advisers.

[Reporter] Above all else, you must consider the idea that such measures can be rejected. Supposing that such measures are rejected and Wasmosy finally becomes the Colorado Party candidate, will you, as Colorado Party members, support him?

[Argana] Well, look. That is a question we must ask the Colorado people. We do not know to what extent the Colorado people are willing to vote for a double-party [mbatara] candidate.

Wasmosy Discusses Electoral Court Decision

PY0503023293 Asuncion Cerro Cora Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0106 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Speech by Colorado Party presidential hopeful Juan Carlos Wasmosy from his Asuncion headquarters—live]

[Text] Party members, in this electoral campaign we were coherent in the things we said and the things we did. We have always said that we would respect the party electoral board's decision, whatever its decision.

This is why we have gathered here with the conviction that the proclamation of Colorado Party candidates would be legitimate if it had the electoral board's approval. This is why we fought on three successive occasions in the party convention to freely and democratically elect an electoral board through the decision of all the conventioneers. [cheers]

Now that the electoral board that was elected by the sovereign will of party members has proclaimed our candidacy to represent our glorious party in the 9 May general election, we can say that no special party movement won or lost here. The Colorado Party as a whole has won, and especially the national democratic process that was started by the nation's glorious Armed Forces and the National Republic Association, Colorado Party. [applause]

The electoral board's decision is sound support for intelligence, equilibrium, and change in Paraguay. Therefore, with the forces of the Colorado Party and the government, we will certainly win in the elections and will be more open than ever to all the internal movements and all the people, to all the inhabitants of this country who would like to make their valuable contribution to this noble republican effort with their good will.

Your fervent presence has made this campaign the hope of the nation, the hope to make this country a place where there no longer will be any room for subservient individuals, wrong ambition, and authoritarian scorn. What is now in play is the superior interest of the country, which is being looked it from the viewpoint of the Colorado Party for all Paraguayans, beyond the petty interests of sectors or individuals.

No political model can lead to success and stability and carry out social justice if it does not solve the economic and social problems affecting society. With the help of the Lord and all of you, we will fulfill these aspirations because we are the most powerful political force in this country. [cheers]

Therefore, we have the full right based on republican principles to exercise political power. We will do it for the benefit of all Paraguayans, children, youths, and men and women, in representation of the Colorado Party with the cooperation of politicians and nonpoliticians because the destiny of our society and the well-being of the Paraguayan people are everyone's responsibility.

This country demands the Colorado Party's presence because it can be useful to a free society, because it also can be critical, but have respect for dissent because it can make an effort to find the necessary solutions in accordance with the requirements of the times, and because it has the courage to accept its mistakes and correct them.

Party members, we realize that it is necessary to have the unity of all party members around the commitment we have made. This is why we open our hearts to republicans for a get-together again in an open and fraternal embrace with all party members, without any distinctions, as indicated by Angel Roberto Seifart. [applause]

We believe in new times; we share the democratic challenge to find good men with whom to dream of a better destiny for the country. With these men we will remove the obstacles obstructing our development and delaying the construction of an open, free, participatory, democratic, progressive, and just society we all want. [cheers]

The economic picture is marked by a feeling of uncertainty that is conditioning the current political situation. We promise a firm and coherent economic policy that will implement the economic reforms that national development and the international situation demand, without hesitation, in order to gain the credibility of people here and abroad, and in this way carry out effective agrarian policies, the necessary infrastructure projects, and a solution to the foreign debt.

The meetings we will hold from now on with leaders of Colorado Party movements first, and with representative of other parties later, will show to what point we are willing to carry out a great national dialogue and to assume with responsibility the challenge to consolidate the process with the participation of all Paraguayans.

Party members, in this electoral campaign we have shown our Colorado Party spirit, our sensibility. Let us close ranks—children, youths, women, men, peasants, union leaders, and why not clergymen—to work together for the greatness of the Republic, but through the glorious and great Colorado Party.

I am thankful to all of you, to all the leaders of the other movements who were able to light the fire of their Colorado spirit, which allowed our party to show this democratic spectacle that other political parties have never shown in the Republic. [applause]

Party members, let us ask heaven for a blessing so that we can walk straight down a clean path with republican principles for the good of all Paraguayans. Long live the Colorado Party; long live Paraguay. Thank you very much.

Argana Followers Resign From Colorado Executive Board

PY0403205593 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 4 Mar 93 p 8

[Excerpts] All Argana movement leaders who are Colorado Party Executive Board members resigned yesterday from their posts during a ceremony at the movement's headquarters. They reported that they could no longer continue legitimizing acts that violate clear constitutional and party rules. The resignation note was handed over to Luis Maria Argana, who will decide when these resignations will be submitted, although some stated that they will be submitted immediately after the release of the party electoral court's resolution. [passage omitted]

German Segovia, Executive Board member who belongs to the Colorado Peasant Coordinating Board, explained to those present at the ceremony the reasons for their resignations.

Segovia read a note saying that Executive Board members and their alternate members submitted their resignations for not being in agreement with the party leaders' behavior. "We are deeply concerned about the leadership crisis that affects our party, and we want to establish the responsibilities in the political and administrative handling of the party," part of the note states. [passage omitted]

Peru

Commission Member Linares Resigns From APRA

PA0503020793 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] Jose Linares Gallo, former senator and member of the U.S. Popular Revolutionary Alliance's [APRA] Political Commission, the party's top organization, resigned from that party on 26 February. Let us listen to his reasons:

[Begin Linares recording] After 25 years of militancy, I decided to resign from APRA and its Political Commission, of which I am a member and to which I was elected in the last party congress in Trujillo.

I reached this decision because I have grown politically and personally. My vision of today's world differs from the one held currently by APRA. Under these circumstances, I decided to withdraw peacefully from a party to which I dedicated a large portion of my life.

I leave the party with no rancor; I leave peacefully while wishing the best successes to those who remain in APRA. At the same tim I am aware there is a need to work for great change. I think today's Peru needs its political class to realize that making politics means taking action and should be defined as a science of results. Our people will

only recognize as leaders those who bring about well-being. Words are useless when unaccompanied by actions, ethics, moral values, and positivism, when well-being is not created.

These are aspects that I definitely no longer find in the current APRA leadership. This is why I decided to resign. I repeat, I am leaving because I have grown personally and politically. [end recording]

APRA leader Luis Alvarado Contreras said the party's leadership has received no formal resignation from Jose Linares Gallo. He described as disrespectful his failure to file an official letter of resignation.

Defense Minister Reports on Espionage Case

PY0403220893 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 17 Feb 93 p A3

[All quotation marks as published]

[Text] Defense Minister General Victor Malca Villanueva has submitted to the Democratic Constituent Congress [CCD] a preliminary report on the case of Frederick Hamilton, a former U.S. Embassy official who has confessed to having supplied secret information to Ecuador on the operational capability of the Peruvian Armed Forces.

The report is herewith transcribed with subtitles supplied by EL COMERCIO.

"I will deal with the espionage case against Peru involving U.S. citizen Frederick Hamilton, who worked at the U.S. Embassy in 1991.

As you are all aware, since 8 February Lima newspapers have been reporting that U.S. citizen Frederick Hamilton is standing trial at a court in Virginia on charges of espionage against the Republic of Peru committed in 1991, when he worked at the U.S. Embassy. Hamilton has pleaded guilty to supplying secret information on the Peruvian military capability to a neighboring country.

Actions Taken

The Defense Ministry took the following action:

- It requested the Foreign Ministry to ask the U.S. Government for an official report on the case—including official confirmation and details of classified information, as well as sources of information—with a view to guiding the investigations and establishing responsibilities, if necessary.
- It requested that the Interior Ministry report on Hamilton's travels.
- It ordered the Armed Forces Joint Command to obtain a report from the National Intelligence Service because this institution does not fall under the Defense Ministry's jurisdiction.
- It ordered the Armed Forces institutions to conduct the appropriate investigations through the Joint Command.
- At 2300 on 12 February I received a fax in which CCD Third Vice President Victor Joy Way states that lawmaker Gustavo Garcia Mundaca suggested that I report on the reasons for this problem and identify those responsible.
- We have listened to Congressman Francisco Tudela, who, among other things, asks if there was any contract or agreement.

I now ask if any of you would sign a contract or an agreement to sell this type of information. Perhaps this is done in other countries.

The fax contains some statements by Tudela, who seems to consider the espionage case as an accomplished fact, as if we have already supplied the information. The fax also includes the following questions: What will you do with those responsible if it is confirmed that an act of espionage occurred? What progress has been made in the investigations?

Conclusions of the Joint Command

The Armed Forces Joint Command has reached the following conclusions after the preliminary investigations:

- No evidence has yet been produced to confirm that a military institution supplied the information to Hamilton.
- Hamilton may have received the information from domestic or international open sources that have access to data on the Peruvian military capability. There are many specialized magazines. U.S. arms suppliers also have this type of information.
- Hamilton is an observer assigned to Latin American countries. He may have written an analysis and may have drawn his own conclusions.
- Early investigations reveal that Hamilton used two passports. He entered Peru on 14 April 1989, and renewed it on 14 August 1991. He went to the United States and returned to Peru on two occasions.
- He worked at the U.S. Embassy as an administrative adviser at the Military Attache's Office from 6 November 1989 to 15 August 1991. By virtue of his post, the Army granted him a card that authorized him to enter the military hospital and the commissary. This reciprocity occurs among the armies of the various countries. He was also allowed to join the Military Club.
- Hamilton served as an adviser at the U.S. Military Attache's Office. In keeping with the rules governing the Association of Military Aides—which consists of military attache personnel accredited to the Peruvian Government—Hamilton, who is a U.S. citizen, was accepted as an active civilian member of the association. In 1991 he served as a social committee member.

Labor Relations

Based on its preliminary investigations, the Peruvian Army has ascertained that Hamilton maintained working contacts with liaison officers of the Army Intelligence Division. These officers coordinate tasks with accredited officials to Peru. He contacted officials and other personnel.

For three consecutive months in 1990 he delivered documents from the U.S. Embassy to the Army Headquarters, and held contacts with officers and auxiliary personnel.

In 1991 he joined the Association of Military Aides and contacted officers and auxiliary personnel.

Following the results of the preliminary investigations the Peruvian Navy reported that Hamilton was accepted as an active civilian member of the association. He later served on the executive board of the association.

In 1991 he paid a protocol visit to Navy officials to mark Navy Day and attended related social events.

Following a preliminary investigation, the Peruvian Air Force [FAP] confirmed that Hamilton was a third-level administrative employee. His work at the FAP was to take the necessary steps to obtain authorization for arrivals and departures of U.S. aircraft. The FAP stated that he worked closely with the U.S. military attache.

Mandatory Legal Procedures

No information has been obtained so far on Hamilton's travel to other countries and on his relations with personnel from other embassies.

It may be stated that no evidence has yet been produced to confirm that a military organization supplied the mentioned information to Hamilton. He could have obtained it from domestic or international open sources having access to data on the military capability of both countries.

I reiterate the need for Defense Ministry and other military officials to observe the clear, precise legal procedures designed to guarantee information security.

The Defense Ministry has adopted additional measures to reinforce these measures and clearly outlines the sanctions included in the Military Code with respect to these incidents.

Security measures have been tightened to protect classified information and the number of officers allowed to attend receptions has been reduced.

The Defense Ministry has taken these actions to ascertain if civilian or military personnel of the Armed Forces either leaked or delivered classified information. More background information is needed and the Foreign Ministry could supply it.

One can neither deny nor confirm the participation of Armed Forces personnel in this crime.

Uruguay

New Peso Introduced; Circulation To Begin in '94

PY0203144093 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Text] A new monetary unit, the Uruguayan peso, which is equivalent to [words indistinct], became effective today.

We have also informed you that the banks will not open today in order to adjust their computer and accounting systems to the new currency.

Even though the new notes will go into circulation next year, the change of currency [words indistinct] will represent various changes for the practical effects of money handling, billing, and accounting operations.

A similar measure was implemented 18 years ago to revalue a currency whose value had been declining due to two decades of rampant inflation, as is also the case today.

The current bills will remain in effect this year because there is a large stock in good condition. Therefore, the Central Bank will only replace them after they deteriorate.

Venezuela

AD Deputies Break Quorum Over President's 'Dollar Scandal'

PA0503015693 Paris AFP in Spanish 0010 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] Caracas, 4 Mar (AFP)—The ruling Democratic Action (AD) party broke the quorum at the Chamber of Deputies on 4 March by abandoning the congressional building to avoid a vote on the preferential dollar scandal in which President Carlos Andres Perez is allegedly involved.

The Chamber of Deputies should have voted on a refusal to receive the presidential report on the nation's financial status if Perez does not first answer a questionnaire that was given to him by a commission made up of deputies asking him about the scandal.

AD also broke the quorum at the Chamber of Deputies on 3 March for this same reason.

Taking advantage of his post, President Perez refused to explain the manipulation of 250 million bolivares from secret Interior Ministry funds.

According to certain reports, this sum of money was used to pay for his expenses as he ran for his second term as president, the office to which he was elected on 2 February 1989.

At that time the exchange rate was controlled and the bolivares were converted to $17.2 million at the preferential exchange rate of 14.5 bolivares per dollar. Weeks later, the 250 million bolivares were returned to the Interior Ministry when the exchange rate control was no longer in effect and the money was worth $5.8 million at the rate of 43 bolivares per dollar.

An $11 million profit was made on the deal. The president's political enemies believe he should be punished.

Perez refuses to answer a written questionnaire, which was sent to him by the Chamber of Deputies accounting commission, headed by Christian Democrat Nelson Chitty, who gave the president 30 days to respond. The deadline expires on 12 March.

On that day, President Perez must submit his annual report to Congress. If congressmen refuse to receive him, they would leave the head of state with no constitutional powers [dejaria al jefe de estado al margen de la constitucion], according to Christian Democratic Deputy Luis Enrique Oberto.

That is why the AD faction asked Congress on 4 March to move forward by one day (to 11 March) the date for Perez to present his report. Given the opposition's rejection of this request, however, and in view of the danger of eventually becoming a minority, the ruling party deputies abandoned the building.

Observers believe that Nelson Chitty's threat to initiate legal proceedings against Perez for disobeying Congress if he insists on not answering the questionnaire is still in effect. The threat was reiterated on 4 March.

Bomb Explodes at Radio Station in Barinas

PA0503015193 Paris AFP in Spanish 2148 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Barinas, Venezuela, 4 Mar (AFP)—A bomb exploded on 4 March at a radio station in Barinas, 420 km southwest of Caracas, as Carlos Canache Mata, Democratic Action [AD] deputy, was being interviewed, authorities have reported.

Canache, however, denied the attack was against him.

Spokesmen of the Paraiso radio station said the explosion, caused by a homemade bomb, resulted in property damage.

This is the fourth bomb that has exploded in this provincial capital since 16 February when, at the request of the ruling AD party, the Supreme Court of Justice suspended new elections for governor in this and the eastern Sucre State.

The Supreme Electoral Council (CSE) had called for new elections on 14 March in view of mutual accusations of fraud between the AD and the opposition following the 6 December elections.

The Supreme Court's decision unleashed a wave of protests in both states (the capitals had to be militarized), which extended to other Venezuelan cities, including Caracas.

The first bomb explosion in Barinas occurred on 25 February at the Legislative Assembly, followed by three more during the weekend of 27 February.

A demonstration demanding new elections was held on 4 March in Cumana, Sucre's capital, located 350 km east of Caracas, which ended without any incidents.

Guyana

Report Proposes Restructuring State Media

FL0403014193 Bridgetown CANA in English 2219 GMT 3 Mar 93

[By Urrell Wilkinson]

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, March 3, CANA—A report on the Guyana State Media by former UNESCO communications adviser on the Caribbean, Rafiq Khan, is recommending the closure of one of the country's two radio stations, the lone television channel, and the sale of nearly half of THE CHRONICLE newspaper. Khan, who was commissioned by the five-month-old Jagan government to conduct a review of the state media and make recommendations, handed in his report to Information Minister Moses Nagamootoo in early January. Copies were released to the news media here Tuesday evening.

Khan, a former Guyana broadcast media executive, recommended the closure of Radio Roraima, one of two radio stations operated by the Guyana Broadcasting Corporation [GBC]. He said the GBC should concentrate its best human and technical resources on improving the Voice of Guyana.

"With a re-modelled Voice of Guyana operating profitably, any expansion of the GBC in the medium to long term should be with a view to establishing competitive dominance and, towards that end, the feasibility of introducing a supplementary FM stereo service, semi-automated and music-oriented, should be examined at the appropiate time."

Khan also said "sustained political interference" over the years had been a "debilitating factor" on the GBC. He wrote: "Politicians are the last to realise—or care—that radio's effectiveness lies in the bonding of broadcasters with their audience and each attempt to manipulate that audience, discredits the broadcaster and degrades the system."

On the state television service, Guyana Television (GTV), Khan said it should cease operation as soon as extant contractual commitments can be negotiated.

"A government that has not the means to operate a television service that can properly serve the whole—or at least, the majority—of the population should not venture into the business.

"It can better spend its limited resources in developing and refining national television products and entrench its rights to the use of legitimate privately operated outlets for the dissemination of those products. As soon as the termination of any extant contractual commitments can be negotiated, GTV should cease operation," Khan said.

Khan, who described the Guyana Public Communications Agency (GPCA) as "wearing the lost air of a child all dressed up with no place to go," recommended the dissolution of this system set up by former Desmond Hoyte administration. The Jagan government has accepted the recommendation and the GPCA will be dissolved this monthend.

Khan said the single bright spot in the state media is the Guyana National Newspapers Limited (GNNL) which publishes THE CHRONICLE newspaper. He said GNNL gives the impression of an effeciently run organisation, with tidy compartments and businesslike staff. He said the "polarised shrillness and selectivity" which had characterised the paper, has been replaced "with breathtaking suddenness by a near-centrist sanity" following the change of administration last October.

Noting, however, that THE CHRONICLE was still under the control of the government, Khan said the newspaper could enhance its credibility by diversifying its ownership base supported by a broader directorate. Khan said the government should retain 51 per cent of the shares, offer 24 per cent to GNNL staff, and the remaining 25 per cent to mass organisations, including religious organisations and trade unions.

The report, according to Information Minister Moses Nagamootoo, is to be subjected to national debate.